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OPINION METER

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DAYS

INSIDE



'Impure'

Madonna is causing "crazy enthusiasm" and "impure thoughts," says Chilean cardinal.

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Diego launches bid for governor

"We're less than a year from the election. I believe it is necessary to begin this campaign as soon as possible. There is so much we need to do."

—Rep. Diego Benavente



By AGNES E. DONATO
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REPORTER

Rep. Diego Benavente announced yesterday his plan to run for governor under the Republican banner in the 2009 elections.

Benavente is the first to declare his candidacy among the several Republicans believed to be eyeing the gubernatorial seat. He will name his running mate in the coming weeks, he said yesterday.

"Most gubernatorial races are started two years in advance. We're less than a year from the election. I believe it is necessary to begin this campaign as soon as possible. There is so much we need to do," said the former lieutenant governor.

The incumbent governor, Benigno R. Fitia, has already declared his intention to run again.

Benavente has already asked the NMI Republican Party to endorse his gubernatorial bid.

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BASED ON REVIEW OF VILLAGOMEZ ARGUMENTS

Judge's tentative ruling is to deny all motions

By FERDIE DE LA TORRE
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REPORTER



Villagomez

The federal court heard yesterday the pre-trial motions filed by Lt. Gov. Timothy P. Villagomez and his co-defendants James Santos and Joaquina Santos.

After listening to the lawyers' arguments, U.S. District Court for

the NMI chief judge Alex R. Munson said he is placing the matter under advisement and that he will issue a written decision.

Before the start of the hearing, Munson announced that based on his review of the arguments his tentative ruling is to deny all the motions.

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MCPHEE-CONWAY ECONOMIC IMPACT REPORT

'Slippery numbers hobbled data collection'



By KRISTI EATON
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REPORTER

During a presentation on the recently released report on the impact of federal laws on the CNMI, one of the study's authors said gathering data for the report was a challenge.

Malcolm McPhee, one of the people responsible for the *Comprehensive Assessment of the CNMI Economy - Economic Impact of Federal Laws on the CNMI*, told the more than 100 business owners and community members in attendance that his co-author, Dick Conway, had to work with different sets of data and in some cases had to choose which data was the most accurate to use.

According to the report, in 2005

See SLIPPERY on Page 4

Malcolm McPhee, one of the author's of the *Comprehensive Assessment of the CNMI Economy - Economic Impact of Federal Laws on the CNMI*, speaks to community members yesterday.

KRISTI EATON

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Local

Fitial asks OIA for \$3.8M to fund CUC repairs

By KRISTI EATON
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REPORTER

Gov. Benigno Fitial has written to Office of Insular Affairs director Nikolao Pula requesting \$3.8 million to rehabilitate engines at the Commonwealth Utilities Corp.'s main power plant.

In the letter Fitial details the plan and process CUC will undergo to fix the engines and why more funding is necessary. In September Pula had written Fitial asking for a more detailed

plan on the use of funds.

"To clarify, CUC's request for additional \$3.8 million to fund continuing rehabilitation efforts for Saipan Power Plant 1 engines is prompted by CUC's inability to fund major repairs of PP1 engines from its own limited working capital resources," Fitial wrote.

Fitial notes that CUC did enter into a contract with DCM to repair six of the eight engines at Power Plant 1, but that on July 10, 2008, the contract was termi-

nated because the engines were not repaired. Only \$410,000 was paid out of the \$5.4 million contract at the time of the termination, he said.

"As stated earlier, in that CUC's working capital resources were insufficient to have funded for any major repairs, CUC would have required financial assistance to pay for the balance of the contract if [the] contractor's performance was unsatisfactory," Fitial wrote.

In January 2007, Fitial wrote to then U.S. deputy assistant secretary for Insular Affairs Da-

vid Cohen proposing that the utility company would be able to make the necessary repairs with the \$6.4 million that OIA had previously given CUC. But in his most recent letter, Fitial said, "working capital resources were insufficient to allow for funding any major repairs."

CUC executive director Antonio Muña said the \$3.8 million, along with leftover money, would total \$5.4 million, enough for the necessary engines to be repaired.

Fitial said that during the next 10 months CUC would

focus on repairing engines 1, 5 and 7, which if fully rehabilitated, will provide 26 megawatts of power.

In his letter to Pula, Fitial also attached an earlier job announcement and description for the position of deputy director for Utilities Systems Rehabilitation, who will focus on power generation and distribution during the rehabilitation process.

Wallon Young is listed as the employee on the job announcement and description sent to OIA. Muna is listed as the im-

mediate supervisor and executive director. CUC could not comment on the hiring until details were worked out.

Off-island media have reported that CUC hired Young, as part of the Quantum Pacific, in January 2007 to develop short-, medium- and long-term goals to the power problems. Top officials of Quantum Pacific are all former employees of the American Samoa Power Authority. The \$250,000 contract was initially for three months, according to reports that quoted company official Gerhard Sword.

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Tropical depression passes Rota

A tropical storm watch was issued yesterday for Rota as Tropical Depression 27W, which was expected to become a tropical storm last night, was set to pass south of the island. The watch was cancelled as of 8:10 last night.

Tropical Storm Watch means that tropical storm conditions, including damaging winds of 39 miles per hour or more, are possible within 12 hours. Despite the cancellation, a small

craft and high surf advisory remains in effect for Rota, Tinian, and Saipan.

As of 4:15pm yesterday, the center of Tropical Depression 27W was located about 90 miles southeast of Rota, 155 miles south-southeast of Tinian, 165 miles south-southeast of Saipan, and 40 miles south of Guam.

EMO said the tropical depression, which had maximum sustained winds of 35

mph, was moving west-northwest at 23 mph.

"Tropical Depression 27W is forecast to slowly intensify over the next 24 hours and may become a Tropical Storm this evening or tonight [Thursday]," EMO said.

On Rota, northeast winds of 15 to 25 mph with gusts of 35 mph in showers were expected to turn southeast last night.

EMO said winds on Rota would gradually subside late

last night to Friday morning.

Heavy rains of up to two inches were expected last night also on Rota.

Gov. Benigno R. Fitial advised Rota residents to review their disaster preparedness plan.

"Residents are also urged to stay tuned to local media for updates on the weather situation," Fitial said.

For Saipan and Tinian residents, the governor reminded them to prepare for changeable weather condition when driving cars. (Ferdie de la Torre)

Woman walking in Afetnas robbed

An unidentified man robbed a woman who was walking along a road in Afetnas Monday night, the Department of Public Safety said yesterday.

DPS spokesperson Lei Ogumoro said the victim, a 27-year-old Chinese, lost a plastic bag containing clothes, a cell phone and a wallet.

Ogumoro said the victim went to DPS Tuesday afternoon to report the robbery.

Based on the police report, the victim was walking Monday

night along the road near the Winners Corp. when the suspect came from behind her and grabbed her plastic bag.

The suspect ran east.

"There was no report of any injuries. This case is under investigation," Ogumoro said.

In another police report, Ogumoro said an unidentified man grabbed a purse belonging to one of three tourists at a beachside in Garapan last week.

The suspect was described as wearing a dark shirt and a pair of dark short pants.

The DPS spokesperson said that last Friday, three female Japanese tourists were lying on the beach when the suspect came and grabbed a purse.

The report did not mention the contents of the purse.

"There were no reports of any injuries," Ogumoro said.

Last week, a masked man robbed a 78-year-old man who was sitting outside of his residence in Chalan Kanoa. (Ferdie de la Torre)

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Christensen elected to powerful House committee

By **AGNES E. DONATO**
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REPORTER

The chairwoman of the congressional panel mainly responsible for insular affairs has secured a seat on the powerful U.S. House Committee on Energy and

Commerce.

U.S. Virgin Islands Delegate Donna M. Christensen is the first non-voting delegate to be named to the House panel, which has oversight over many issues including health, commerce, trade and consumer

protection, energy and air quality, environment and hazardous materials, telecommunications, and the Internet.

"I am both humbled and excited by this opportunity to serve the people of the Virgin Islands, the insular territories and

the wider country on issues that will be of utmost importance to all of us," Christensen said in a statement.

Delegate-elect Gregorio Kilili C. Sablan offered his congratulations to Christensen. He said he is glad that the insular areas

will be represented in the important committee.

"I hope we can work with Congresswoman Christensen to bring about necessary changes to improve life in the insular areas, including the Commonwealth. I look forward to working with the chairwoman to address issues facing the Northern Marianas, to include Medicaid and our local tourism industry," said Sablan.

Christensen currently serves as chairwoman of the U.S. House Subcommittee on Insular Affairs. She was elected to the Energy and Commerce Committee post by the House Steering and Policy Committee on Wednesday evening in Washington, D.C.



Christensen

"Being at the table and being able to vote on issues like lifting the Medicaid cap, extending SCHIP (the children's health insurance program), and also

on issues concerning the environment, energy, information technology, and consumer protections is an extraordinary opportunity for the Virgin Islands," said Christensen, who will begin her seventh term in the U.S. House of Representatives in January.

She added, "It has always been a goal of mine to serve on Energy and Commerce from my very first run for Delegate to Congress. I am grateful for the support of my colleagues as well as many in the health care industry who believed that I would bring a much needed perspective to this position."

UWM gets positive response from Immigration regarding IR issues

By **NAZARIO RODRIGUEZ JR.**
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REPORTER

Immigration Director Melvin L. Grey has responded to the comments of the United Workers Movement about the proposed changes to the Immigration regulations, saying he will carefully consider the issues.

In a letter dated Dec. 3 to UWM president Irene N. Tantiado, Grey said they would give each comment careful consideration before publishing the final version of the regulations.

Earlier on Nov. 25, UWM wrote Immigration with attached signatures by Freely Associated States citizens with non-FAS spouses.

Grey told UWM that the Division of Immigration has already worked on the policy aspects of the issue with various persons and groups.

Grey said he does not anticipate Immigration granting extended permits to immediate relatives of FAS citizens as these aliens are subject to FAS laws and should pursue their status with the FAS government.

"I thank Director Grey for responding to my comments. As far as immediate relatives of FAS citizens, we are not ready to give up yet. I have already asked them to schedule a meeting so we can discuss what can still be done," Tantiado said in a statement.

The amendments will be in effect Jan. 1, 2009.

UWM is aware of the limited time but Tantiado said they could not just give up. "We will come up with plans to convince the AG to include these people," she said.

UWM is urging Immigration to extend the permit, which she said should be worked out by the CNMI government and not

the FAS governments.

As for the relatives of CNMI permanent residents, Grey said the change UWM is requesting is not necessary because this is a very small group of aliens who were granted permanent resident status in the 1970s and 1980s. "The proposed regulations make the immediate relatives of this group eligible for a two-year permit," Grey said.

On the issue IR of qualified foreign national workers, Grey said the change UWM is requesting is not also necessary since the proposed regulations make foreign national workers eligible for a two-year permit and their immediate relatives are eligible for the same length of time as the alien sponsor.

Grey also said IRs of U.S. nationals will be treated in the same manner as IRs of U.S. citizens.

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'Bonds involved in class action amounts to \$557,977'

By **FERDIE DE LA TORRE**
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REPORTER

The total proceeds of the labor bonds involved in the class action filed by 127 alien workers against the Department of Labor and its top officials amounts to \$557,977, according to lawyer Robert Myers.

Myers, counsel for the alien workers, stated in the complaint that of the total amount, \$175,246 represents the proceeds of labor bonds per Sako Corp., CWM Corp., and Net Corp.

Myers said the remaining \$382,751 represents the proceeds of the labor bonds for all other plaintiffs.

Superior Court Associate Judge David A. Wiseman set a status conference of the lawsuit for Dec. 18, 2008, at 1:30pm.

The class action was filed against Labor, Secretary Gil M. San Nicolas, Deputy Secretary Cinta Kaipat, and Labor Director Barry Hirshbein.

The class action also named as co-defendants 20 unnamed surety or bonding or insurance companies that issued surety labor bonds to the employers of the complainants.

On behalf of the workers who have unpaid wages and other damages awarded by Labor administrative orders, Myers asked the Superior Court to compel Labor and co-defendants to

enforce the surety's obligations under the statutory labor bonds.

Myers asked the court to immediately order Labor to collect all surety bonds issued by the surety or insurance companies.

Myers said the Secretary and Deputy Secretary have both publicly stated in local newspapers that Labor does not have to enforce the surety's obligations because the courts are best suited for such purpose.

"These official public statements are absolutely wrong and intentional/reckless misrepresentations in violations of plaintiffs' rights under Commonwealth statutory law," Myers asserted.

SLIPPERY

From Page 1

the population of the CNMI was 70,200 with a workforce of 35,960. Of the workforce, 23,360 were foreign workers. Under federalization, according to the report, by 2015 the population is projected to decrease to 40,480, with 16,270 workers employed and 1,000 of those nonresidents. Under the "relief" scenario, the population would decrease to 61,730 by 2015, with the employment level at 31,840 and 18,740 of those made up of foreign workers.

Numbers problem

McPhee acknowledged that Conway, who was unable to come to the CNMI for the presentation, had trouble with statistics, including population numbers.

"That was really a difficult process," he said. "Sometimes we had long conversations on which population figures were accurate."

Conway worked with the Commerce Department through e-mail to settle on numbers, McPhee said.

Numbers for the labor force were also difficult to determine. For the year

2007-2008, there might be five different sources with five different numbers. It was a unique situation for Conway who is used to agencies in the United States, where numbers are readily available, he said.

"Dr. Conway had to tear his hair out some times," he added.

McPhee's discussion on data came after an audience member asked about the report's methodology. McPhee was questioned how he and Conway were able to get solid numbers while the U.S. Government Accountability Office and the U.S. Department of Labor had trouble obtaining figures for their respective studies on the impact of applying U.S. immigration and minimum wage laws to the CNMI.

The McPhee and Conway study cites both U.S. agencies' trouble in obtaining data, and that it hampered completing a thorough study.

The U.S. Department of Labor noted, "The information vacuum continues to be an obstacle to an objective and comprehensive assessment of the economy and its productive capacity."

'Train in the tunnel'

During the presentation McPhee re-

iterated the report's findings, which include that under federalization, the CNMI economy stands to lose approximately 44 percent of its real Gross Domestic Product, 60 percent of its jobs and 45 percent of its real personal income by 2015.

"There's light at the end of the tunnel under the relief scenario, but the federalization scenario is an oncoming train in the tunnel," McPhee said.

He admitted there were a lot of variables in the relief scenario that must take place in order for the numbers to have the predicted outcome.

Doubling the tourism industry, as was noted in his presentation, is hypothetical. It's used as an illustration that "all of these would be possible if you didn't have to worry about an adequate labor force."

Several local businesses and organizations donated funds to bring McPhee out to the CNMI to discuss the report.

The report was completed with a federal grant from the U.S. Interior Department. A request for proposals was placed and a team was chosen and contracted with the Office of the Governor.

JUDGE'S

From Page 1

Villagomez appeared in court with three lawyers—David Lujan, Leilani Lujan, and Joey San Nicolas. Leilani Lujan made the oral argument on behalf of the lieutenant governor.

James Santos was with attorney Victorino DLG. Torres, while his wife, Joaquina Santos, came with attorney Ramon Quichocho.

In Villagomez's motion to dismiss, Leilani Lujan insisted that the indictment is defective as the allegations in the conspiracy charge are time-barred due to the statute of limitations of five years.

She pointed out that the indictment does not contain a single allegation of any overt act or wrongdoing by Villagomez or any co-conspirator between 2000 and 2007.

She said that in that span of seven years and eight months, there was absolutely no activity whatsoever.

Leilani Lujan said the court should dismiss the conspiracy count as it relates to the transaction of 1998 to 2000 since it is already beyond the five-year statute of limitations.

She said there should be at least one overt act that is required for the 2007 transaction.

"But that did not occur! Instead we

have seven years and eight months' gap," Lujan said, adding that the jury would have no basis to make a factual finding.

Lawyers Torres and Quichocho joined in Villagomez's motion.

Quichocho said the indictment does not allege that his client, Joaquina Santos, was an agent of the Commonwealth Utilities Corp. It just says that Joaquina Santos aided and abetted, but there are no elements provided with respect to aiding and abetting, he said.

Quichocho said the charge was must dismissed for a failure to state a claim.

He said the jury is going to be confused as to which count will they decide with respect to Joaquina Santos.

Torres noted several issues as to the wire fraud and the allegations whether the facts were pled with particularity.

"We believe that it puts the defendants in a very awkward position. And we're not in a position to put up a solid defense and we don't know with adequate notice on the pleading itself," Torres later told *Saipan Tribune*.

On Villagomez's motion for a bill of particulars, Leilani Lujan said they want disclosure of the agents' rough notes.

Assistant U.S. Attorney Eric O'Malley did not argue much at the hearing, explaining later that he believes the U.S. government's arguments were sufficiently stated in the pleadings

submitted in court.

"Their arguments raised during the oral hearing weren't really that different from their own motions," he said.

As for the motion to dismiss for failure to state a claim, the prosecutor said the purpose of the indictment is merely to put the defendant on notice of what the charges are.

"It doesn't have to be tremendously specific. They were seeking a level of specificity that we argued that the law does not require and that based on that the indictment was sufficient," O'Malley said.

He said the defendants were trying to seek dismissal of the 1998 to 2000 claims due to the five-year statute of limitations.

O'Malley said the U.S. government's argument is that there was one ongoing conspiracy, one ongoing agreement that began in 1998 and went dormant for a period and was reactivated in 2007.

"The law of conspiracy supports that. Our position is that the law of conspiracy is such that conspiracy doesn't die just because a period of time has passed. A conspiracy is presumed to continue until one of the conspirators or all of the conspirators take an affirmative step to disband it," he said.

O'Malley said the fact that the defendants reactivated the conspiracy in 2007 would give the U.S. government jurisdiction.

UMDA

From Page 1

CNMI economy by creating more revenues, jobs and opportunities in the Commonwealth," said UMDA CEO and president Russ Snow.

A team of five students of the UCLA Anderson School of Management who visited the Commonwealth last month completed its initial report in early November and presented their findings to Gov. Benigno R. Fitial.

UMDA has agreed to provide the land for the Technology Center and to help recruit a major technology company from the U.S. mainland, to become a partner of the new center and establish operations on the island.

Part of the project also involves securing tax benefits from the CNMI government for investments in the Technology Center and extending the time period for no limitations on H-1 visa status on Saipan.

"It's our goal to make Saipan an attractive option for technology companies looking to establish operations in the Asia-Pacific region," said Fitial.

According to Snow, "Local business leaders and the business management team from UCLA Anderson are very excited about the prospect of introducing the CNMI as a safe and secure location for technology companies. Saipan is unique—the island offers great living conditions, low tax rates, and access to an additional H-1 visa-trained workforce within a U.S. protectorate, which is on the doorstep of Asia. We're hoping that these benefits will attract a major technology company partner and we plan to unveil final plans for development of the Technology Center in mid-2009."

There are major benefits for a mainland company that establishes an operational presence on Saipan. Saipan will have no limitation on the access

to a pool of technically qualified H-1 visa workers from nearby Japan, Korea, India and other Asian countries because Saipan does not fall within the H-1 visa cap, which controls the mainland U.S. employment regulations. In addition, Saipan is a U.S. commonwealth and products developed here are protected by the U.S. copyright laws and the U.S. Judicial System. For Saipan the creation of the Technology Center would offer new opportunities to the local work force and be the first step in the establishment of a knowledge-based economy in the region.

The U.S. Congress passed legislation earlier this year that exempts the CNMI and Guam from immigration law caps on temporary workers through at least 2014. The immediate purpose of this legislation was to ensure that the Department of Defense would be able to find up to 20,000 workers estimated to be required for the planned military buildup in neighboring Guam. But the legislation also opens the door for U.S. technology companies to establish an operational presence in the CNMI, which offers safe, desirable and affordable living conditions to workers (including a federal tax rate that is 50 percent of the rate assessed in the States) and ready access for employers to an H-1 visa work force.

UMDA was founded in 1966 in Saipan and has been involved in a wide range of businesses, including shipping, airlines, cable systems, and resort properties. UMDA's shareholders include the government or governmental entities of the CNMI, Palau, Federated States of Micronesia, and thousands of individual Micronesians and their families. In December 2007 UMDA announced the purchase from JAL Group of the Hotel Nikko Saipan, a 313-room luxury hotel in Saipan. (PRNewswire)

DIEGO

From Page 1

natorial bid. He said he is prepared to go through a primary election. Benavente is expected to face off with at least two other Republican candidates: former governor Juan N. Babauta, with whom Benavente served as lieutenant governor, and Rep. Heinz Hofschneider, who ran an independent campaign for governor in 2005 after the GOP supported the Babauta-Benavente ticket without holding a primary.

"In the past, the party had held primaries and it had been successful in winning elections. The one time we did not hold a primary, we lost. I look forward to the primary," he said.

In a letter to local GOP president Edward S. Tenorio, Benavente said he is ready to take on the economic crisis currently facing the Commonwealth.

"I humbly step up to answer the call for a steady hand of leadership to take the charge as our Commonwealth's next governor," Benavente wrote. "As House speaker for several terms and as Lt. governor, I developed the greatest skill required of

any elected official: the ability to get results by building a consensus, to work together, and to agree in a way which achieves the ultimate goal that is best for our people. That is the Republican way."

He also said he intends to pick a running mate "with whom I share the vision of working hard now for our future." He added, "Together, we will roll up our sleeves and together we will work for our citizens, not ourselves."

Benavente first ran for office in 1987, when he lost his bid for Precinct II representative by six votes. He secured the post in his second attempt in 1989, and went on to serve in the House of Representatives for six consecutive terms, including three terms during which he served as Speaker of the House.

In 2001, he won the gubernatorial election side by side with Babauta. The two lost their re-election bid in 2005, in what is believed to be the result of Hofschneider's breakaway from the party.

Last year, Benavente was once again elected to the House of Representatives. He currently serves as chairman of the U.S. House Committee on Federal and Foreign Relations.

Web site invites public to grade NMI lawmakers

A lawmaker has started a poll asking the public to grade the performance of each of the members of the Legislature.

House Floor Leader Joseph James N. Camacho posted the poll on his Web site, www.camachocnmi.com, in a bid to

gather feedback on the lawmakers' performance.

"I must mention that I have given much thought if I should even post this poll or not," Camacho says in a message also appearing on the Web site. "My colleagues at the Legislature

might not appreciate being publicly graded. Ultimately, my decision to move forward and post this poll rested on the fundamental belief that, as public officials, we answer to the public."

He adds, "These feedbacks in the middle of a term can have

positive results. If certain legislators get a good grade, please keep up the good work. If certain legislators feel they get a grade that they do not deserve, please re-evaluate what you are doing. Perhaps your message and hard work is not reaching

the public, or perhaps you need to work harder and be more responsive to the public. Getting feedback [in] the middle of the term gives legislators a chance to make changes and improvements. There is still time."

Camacho admits, however, that the online survey has "built-in shortcomings." For example, people can skew the results by voting more than once. Also, the survey is open to any Internet user, and not limited to voters or residents of the electoral district being represented by a particular legislator.

Camacho also warns about people who, for whatever reason, might try to sabotage the poll by intentionally giving a

lawmaker an underserved grade. He says he hopes there will be few such cases.

He urges the poll participants to review the legislation introduced by each senator or representative.

"Read the Standing Committee Reports. Take a look at the voting record. It may be time consuming, but please read through the journals to see the debates and discussion. Make an informed decision. Legislators should get feedback from the public, but it has to be an honest, deserved and informed feedback," he says.

The poll will run through the end of January 2009, according to Camacho. (Agnes E. Donato)

ON THE NET

www.camachocnmi.com

'AGO met burden in charging man in helmet attack'

By **FERDIE DE LA TORRE**
ferdie_delatorre@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

The Superior Court yesterday denied a motion to compel the Attorney General's Office to elaborate the factual basis in the charging information filed against a man accused of slamming a motorcycle helmet on a man's head outside a nightclub on Tinian.

Associate Judge David A. Wiseman determined that the charging information adequately puts Luis P. Cruz on notice as to what allegedly occurred and sufficiently states facts that constitute a crime.

"Any further information the defendant seeks will be sufficiently revealed through discovery," said Wiseman in his order denying Cruz's motion for a bill of particulars.

The judge said the government has given Cruz enough notice of the charges so he could prepare an adequate defense and that "discovery will likely obviate any need for a bill of particulars."

Police said the victim, Cui Jingzhu, had just stepped out from U-Joy Nite Club when he had an argument with two local men.

One man, later identified as Cruz, allegedly hit Jingzhu with a helmet on the head. The suspect then left aboard a motorcycle.

A surveillance camera at a store

in the area caught the attack that led to Cruz's identification.

In May 2008, the government charged Cruz with one count of assault with a dangerous weapon and one count of aggravated assault and battery.

Cruz pleaded not guilty.

Cruz, through counsel Joey P. San Nicolas, argued that the charging information is not specific enough as to the date or time of the alleged incident, that there are no specific facts as to what Cruz allegedly did that constitute a crime.

Wiseman pointed out, though, that the main purpose of a charging information is to provide a defendant notice of the charges that have been filed against him, as well as listing the acts committed that provided the basis for such charges.

"A bill of particulars is not needed if the information itself provides sufficient details of the charges and the government provides full discovery to the defense," Wiseman said.

In this case, the judge said, by statute, a person is guilty of assault with a dangerous weapon if he threatens to cause, attempts to cause, or purposely causes bodily injury to another with a dangerous weapon.

"The information in this case has provided those required essential facts in its description which specifically lists who was allegedly injured, when

and where the assault allegedly took place, and the type of alleged dangerous weapon used in commission of the assault—a 'helmet,'" Wiseman said.

With respect to the second charge, Wiseman said that, by statute, a person is guilty of aggravated assault and battery if he causes serious bodily injury, purposely,

knowingly or recklessly.

"Again, the information has provided those required essential facts in its description, which specifically lists who was allegedly injured, when and where the assault took place, and the alleged serious bodily injury which was caused by the assault—'severe head injury,'" he said.

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New Palau president and VP set Saipan visit

By NAZARIO RODRIGUEZ JR.
n_rodriguez@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

The incoming President and Vice President of the Republic of Palau will arrive on Saipan this Sunday morning for a victory party with their constituents here.

Consul Eileen Kintol of the Palau Consulate in the CNMI said that President-elect John-

son Toribiong and Vice President-elect Kerai Mariur will be here to extend their appreciation to Palauans on Saipan who supported them during the elections.

The venue has yet to be finalized. Kintol said they might hold it at the Minatchom Atdao or at the American Memorial Park.

Toribiong and Mariur held



Toribiong

Saipan, Guam and Hawaii.

They got a total vote of 5,040,

their final rally on Saipan.

The tandem did well in garnering absentee votes from

just barely ahead of the tandem of outgoing VP Elias Camsek Chin and Alan Seid, who garnered 4,828 votes.

Toribiong, an attorney and former diplomat, and Mariur, currently a member of Palau's House of Delegates, will be sworn in on Jan. 15, 2009.

Two days before the Nov. 1 absentee voting on Saipan, Tor-

ibiong and Mariur held their final rally at the Garapan Fishing Base in front of Kristo Rai Church.

Mariur was also seen at the Marianas High School gates until the last absentee voter cast his vote.

The tandem campaigned for preservation of the "true Palauan spirit" and promised to prioritize the younger Palauan generation

in government programs.

They also vowed to encourage sustainable investments, expand investments in undeveloped islands, public health programs, keeping traditions and customs intact, preserving the dignity of senior citizens, affordable housing, maintaining good relations with the international community, and a transparent leadership.

Continental's flight attendant gets car for perfect attendance

HAGÄTÑA, Guam—A Continental Micronesia employee who posted a perfect attendance from January to July this year received a car for her dedication and reliability.

Guam-based flight attendant Irene Redona-Carle, a 14-year veteran and Japanese language speaker, received an invitation to Houston to meet with Larry Kellner, Continental Airlines chief executive officer and chairman, and Jeff Smisek, Continental Airlines President and Chief Operating Officer.

Continental officers drew Redona-Carle's name and eight others from among the thou-

sands of qualified employees entered in the Perfect Attendance Drawing.

Redona-Carle chose the Ford Escape Hybrid among the other two car choices available: a sporty Ford Mustang or a Ford Explorer.

Since 1996, Continental Airlines has awarded employees to promote perfect attendance, giving away over 100 brand new cars, jet skis, and comput-

Continental Micronesia employee Irene Redona-Carle wins a car for perfect attendance. She is shown here receiving her keys to her new car.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO



ers. For each six-month period, employees qualify to enter a drawing for a Ford Explorer, a Ford Mustang, or a Ford Escape Hybrid. The company also has a rolling six-month award for those who had any consecutive six months of perfect attendance. The prize selections are two one-way coach or first class passes.

Continental Micronesia's employee incentive programs include a perfect attendance and an operational success program. The perfect attendance program recognizes and rewards employees for consecutive months or years of

perfect attendance. The company's on-time bonus program rewards employees with a cash bonus plan for their teamwork and dedication when the airline meets its on-time goals for the month.

Celebrating 40 years of service in Guam and Micronesia, Continental Micronesia is headquartered in Guam and operates a Pacific hub from the A.B. Won Pat International Airport. For more company information, go to continental.com. (Continental)

New CCLPC members to elect officers this weekend

The newly appointed members of the Chamorro Carolinian Language Policy Commission will be electing their officers this weekend, Dec. 13.

CCLPC executive director Dave R. Omar said the meeting would be held at the Office on Aging starting at 9am.

Omar said this would be the first time the eight members will gather together as a team.

They will be choosing among themselves the chairman, vice chairman, secretary and treasurer.

Gov. Benigno R. Fitial appointed eight members to the commission two months ago.

These include six from Saipan: Vivian Odoshi, Vincent Ray Marehan, Rosa R. Warakai, William I. Macaranas, Ben Borja, and Maria Mafnas. Two other members, Angelina C. Fitial and Tita Hocog, represent Tinian and Rota, respectively.

Before the organizational meeting and election of officers, Department of Community and Cultural Affairs Secretary Cecilia Taitano-Celes will be delivering a special message while Omar will give an overview of the commission's programs.

Omar said the new members would also discuss and plan the commission's immediate and long-term plans.

The commission is set to review the new Public Law 15-96, which repealed and re-enacted Chapter 2 Division I title 3 of the Commonwealth Code pertaining to the Chamorro Carolinian Language Policy Commission. (Nazario Rodriguez Jr.)



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CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Happy birthday greetings go out to Schuito Alexandra T. Kaipat. "May you have many more birthdays to come." From your family back home on the rock.

**BIRTHDAY SHOUT-OUT**

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Happy 12th birthday to Abram Jacob M. Repeki. Greetings coming from your mom, Veralynn Basa, and your brother Justice Javy Aldan, and also from the Basa family.



Happy birthday greetings go out to Sowmang-eyong Daniel O. Kaipat, who is currently serving in Iraq. "May God bless you and may you have many more birthdays to come." From all the famililan Aldans and Kaipats

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

**PTI RAFFLE WINNERS**

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Winners of PTI's Afterhour Sale Raffle giveaway display their Motorola L6 and Samsung Juke phone. Both winners were ecstatic when they got the great news! From left, Hamor Manahan; Ed Manglona, PTI Marketing Coordinator; and Noel Salalila.

**FIRST COMMUNICANT**

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Bambino Monkeya, second from right, was the first communicant last Dec. 8, 2008, at the San Jose Church on Tinian. With him are his parents, Melvin and Princepia Monkeya, and his sister. They celebrated the event at the JC Café on Tinian.

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More Guam soldiers returning today

More Guam soldiers are on their way home.

Seven soldiers of the Guam Army National Guard's "Ayuyu" Company, 1st Battalion ("Chamorro"), 294th Infantry Regiment, are scheduled to return this evening via Continental's Flight No.1, after being deployed to Afghanistan in February in support of Operation Enduring Freedom and the Global War on Terror.

The bulk of the soldiers arrived at Andersen Air Force Base on Dec. 9, which left over 30 soldiers in Hawaii pending demobilization requirements. The remaining soldiers are expected to return throughout the next couple of weeks.

The core of the unit is built

around an infantry company with a support element composed of soldiers mainly from the Guam Army Guard's Forward Support Company and various other units. The Support Element provided logistic, maintenance, medical, and administrative support to the in-

fantry company.

The soldiers provided security for units operating in the assigned Area of Operation and training to the Afghan National Security Forces.

The unit conducted over 600 combat patrols, training operations and humanitarian

assistance in support of Task Force Currahee, 101st Airborne Division.

The unit was last deployed in 2004 for a year to the Horn of Africa in support of Operation Enduring Freedom and Combined Joint Task Force – Horn of Africa. (PR)

Christmas in Marianas Health Walk set tomorrow

Saipan Walking Inc. announced yesterday its last event of the year dubbed "Christmas in the Marianas Health Walk."

The event is scheduled for Saturday, Dec. 20, with the registration to start 3:30pm at the corner of the American Memorial Park, adjacent to the Fire Station.

Registration fee is \$5 that

comes with a t-shirt.

Organizer Mario Espeleta said leftover shirts after the walk would be available for \$7.

Espeleta said this event highlights the 7th Annual Christmas in the Marianas Celebration.

The walk will be followed by the Christmas in the Marianas Float Contest, and Christmas

in the Marianas Attire/Caroling Contest.

The float contest will assemble at the Carolinian Affairs Office starting at 5pm and end at the AMP parking lot.

The Caroling Contest will begin at 6:30pm or right after the parade at the AMP Amphitheater. (Nazario Rodriguez Jr.)



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The promotional prize draws will occur at 10am on Friday 21st November 2008, Friday 12th December 2008 and Wednesday 31st Dec 2008. The Grand Prize Draw will occur at 10am on Friday 9th January, 2009. Draws will be held at the Western Union location at Mita Travel Beach Road Garapan, Saipan, and are open to the public to attend.

This promotion is valid from November 10, 2008 to December 31, 2008. Terms and conditions apply.

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Flashback

A LOOK BACK AT PAST YEARS' HEADLINES

December 12, 2000

Bicameral meeting eyed to seal pact on budget

The House and the Senate are set to go into bicameral conference on Thursday to begin hammering out an agreement on the much-delayed budget that will oil operations of the government for the next 10 months. The joint meeting will be held in the Legislature building on Saipan, ditching a request from the Senate to conduct the proceeding on Rota. Ways and Means Committee chair Rep. Antonio M. Camacho declined to comment when asked what the lower house intends to lay down on the negotiating table when they meet with their Senate counterparts.

OPA clears Karimipour on contract violation raps

Chief Public Defender Masood Karimipour was vindicated yesterday from allegations that he violated terms in his employment contract after a thorough investigation conducted by the Office of the Public Auditor revealed no evidence that he used company time and state-owned resources to engage in private activities. The public defender, however, asserted that while he has been cleared of allegations hurled against him, his accusers should not be permitted to run free after attempting to destroy his reputation through innuendo and rumors. "What still remains unresolved is the issue of how the Attorney General's Office, an agency that is supported by taxpayers money, can abuse the power of their office in engaging in petty and personal attacks and maliciously throwing mud at innocent individuals," he said.

December 12, 2001

Dust worries Tanapag residents

Tanapag Action Group Chair Juan Tenorio vowed to raise a barrage of complaints before federal government representatives once they face each other today in a scheduled meeting at the Division of Environmental Quality. Tenorio said the indirect thermal desorption machine, which has been put up by the contractor of the Army Corps of Engineers to treat some 20,000 tons of PCB-contaminated soil, has been emitting a huge amount of dust enough to cover the tall pine trees nearby. "The dust is very bad coming from the machine," Tenorio said.

US-DOJ to reassess Saipan garment factories

The US Department of Justice has called for the immediate reassessment of all garment factories in the Northern Marianas following devious information earlier released on the alleged garment workers' use of drugs. US-DOJ National Drug Intelligence Center Director Michael T. Horn apologized to the Saipan Garment Manufacturing Association for his agency's irresponsible reporting, which alleged that garment workers on Saipan use drugs to increase their productivity. In a letter to SGMA executive director Richard A. Pierce, Horn admitted that the agency failed to substantiate the allegation and the agency regrets having it printed without proper verification.

December 12, 2002

FEMA flies to Rota, Agrihan residents said trapped

Representatives from the Federal Emergency Management Agency were to conduct a preliminary damage assessment on Rota by helicopter yesterday, as the CNMI government remains expectant of a major disaster declaration by President Bush. With authorities projecting power restoration on the island to take several weeks or longer, hopes remained high that Bush would act swiftly on the CNMI's request for disaster declaration, so that federal funding could immediately be made available to rehabilitate Rota. "The request is on the President's desk for his review," said CNMI Press Secretary Pete Callaghan, saying he was told of this yesterday afternoon by FEMA's regional office headquartered in Oakland, California.

Govt earnings up 10 percent

Revenues collected by the CNMI Department of Finance for the Commonwealth government jumped more than 10 percent in the third quarter of the fiscal year 2002, in comparison with the previous three-month period's tally. A report prepared by the Central Statistics Division of the Department of Commerce indicated that taxes and fees collected by the finance department during the period under review totaled \$50.3 million, up from the \$45.57 million in the previous quarter. Compared with the figure reported in the third quarter of last financial year, however, this year's third quarter collection was lower by more than 16 percent. The finance department collected about \$60 million during the same period last fiscal year.

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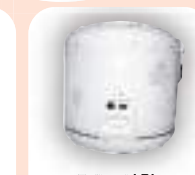
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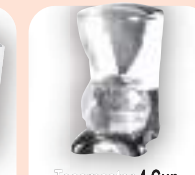
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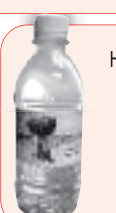
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Opinion

Hafa Adahi!

Saipan Tribune

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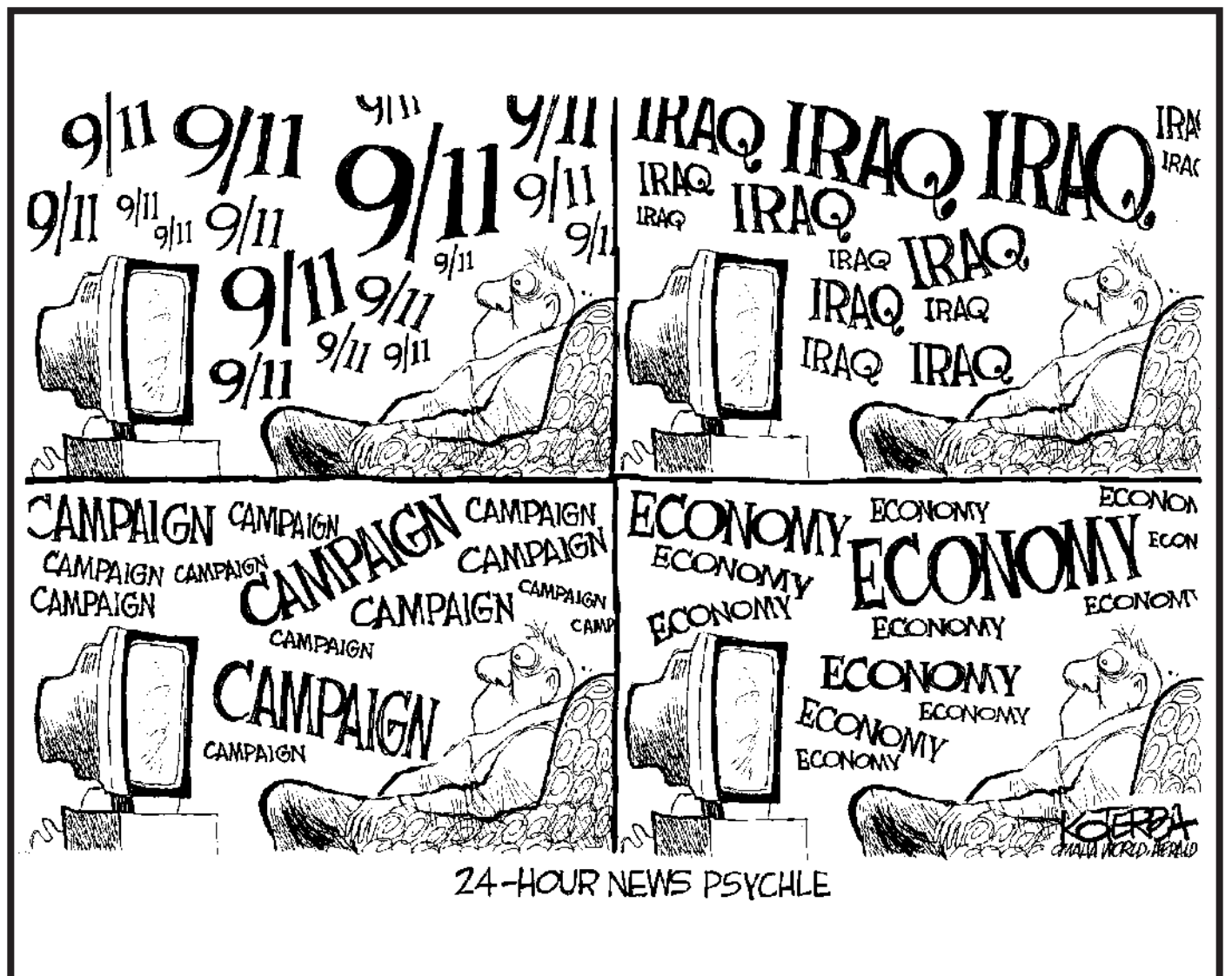
Illinois needs to find a way to fill Senate seat honestly

A court will determine whether Illinois Gov. Rod Blagojevich is guilty of a “public corruption crime spree” that would make “Lincoln roll over in his grave,” as colorfully alleged by U.S. Attorney Patrick J. Fitzgerald this week. Certainly, Mr. Blagojevich seems to have immersed himself in political sleaze—from trying to amass questionable campaign contributions to proposing aid to the parent company of the Chicago Tribune on condition that an editorial writer who had criticized the governor be fired. Though the latter charge naturally alarms us, by far the most significant—and stomach-turning—allegations concern Mr. Blagojevich’s plans to use his power to appoint a new U.S. senator to extract financial or political favors from the incoming Obama administration or its supporters. Whatever the criminal courts decide, that effort will require a response by the Illinois legislature.

By Illinois law, the decision on who will fill the Senate seat vacated by Mr. Obama rests solely with the governor. But Mr. Blagojevich’s scheming, some of which was captured on audiotape, has irrevocably compromised his moral authority to make an appointment. One allegation has Mr. Blagojevich seeking to trade the seat for a lucrative job with a union-connected organization and help from the president-elect on the union’s national agenda. Another is that he wanted something “tangible up front” to demonstrate a potential Senate appointee’s willingness to raise money for him if decided to run for a third term in 2010. It is not clear how far the governor went in carrying out his schemes; it is possible to imagine a defense attorney arguing that Mr. Blagojevich was more talk than action. But after such revelations, anyone named senator by the governor would be tainted. No candidate genuinely qualified for the job and unconnected to Illinois’ political corruption should be willing to accept such an appointment.

The best solution to this problem is for the Illinois legislature to call a special election to fill Mr. Obama’s seat, as proposed this week by the state’s senior U.S. senator, Richard J. Durbin. Outgoing Illinois Senate President Emil Jones announced that he would call his chamber back into session to pass a bill authorizing the vote “to help restore the confidence of the people of Illinois at this difficult time.” If Illinois legislators need encouragement to adopt this admittedly expensive and time-consuming proposition, Mr. Obama—who has not been implicated in Mr. Fitzgerald’s allegations—should provide it.

(c) 2008, The Washington Post



The dying western flame

Today I wanted to highlight Japan’s lapse back into recession and its implications for the CNMI tourism industry, but there will be time for that later, given that the implications aren’t really very dramatic. That’s mere fuzz on the economic radar screen. By contrast, the profound factors that are going to change the entire Asia-Pacific region are just coming into public view. I have warned you about these factors for over a decade; the fall of the dollar, for one, and, more recently, the collapse in the U.S. debt markets.

This is too big of a story to pass up, now that it’s headline stuff all over the world. And it’s not pointy-headed trivia. We’re witnessing history. And it probably points to why you should start studying Mandarin, or maybe should dig a fox hole in Marpi.

I’ll put the conclusion first: The West is sinking, right in front of our eyes, and this is going to cause a lot of grief, and a lot of opportunity, in the East. Between now and then, there’s a distinct possibility (or so I think) of a war, be it a trade war, or the worse kind.

Economically, the strongest component of the West, the U.S. (of course), strikes me as entirely un-viable. It’s built on a pile of toxic debt that can never be paid back. In fact, this story just hit my desk: The U.S. federal deficit alone is on track to exceed one trillion dollars on a yearly basis. A trillion!

Government debt, corporate debt, personal debt, mortgage debt, it’s just not going to fly. Because of this false prosperity, workers have grown accustomed to standards of living that are far in excess of their productivity levels. Big economies are very hard to predict with accurate timing, but standards of living seem very likely to start reverting to their fundamental levels very soon; eventually, this could be about half (yes, half) of what standards are now.

If and when this happens, the fear and anger will be too big to ignore.

So you can probably foresee the fallout for yourself, you don’t need me to lead you around by the nose. And, as for Europe, the experts who I follow think it’s in for a similar fate.

OK, but where does the East come in, outside of the obvious implications of their major export markets sagging, and their crazy investments in doomed securities and currencies going sour?

Well, simply put, I think the West is going in one direction, the East is going in another, and when these trajectories cross, somebody is going to miscalculate, and things will get contentious.

Many Americans think that everybody wants to emulate America, and, therefore, Americans are prone to projecting American beliefs onto foreign cultures, and prone to using these premises

By **ED STEPHENS JR.**
Special to the Tribune

Ed is a pilot, economist, and writer. He holds a degree in economics from UCLA and is a former U.S. naval officer. His column runs every Friday. Visit Ed at TropicalEd.com and SaipanBlog.com.



to gauge how those cultures will react to various situations. Europe isn’t immune to the same outlook. The West enjoyed its prosperity, then got tired of the exertions and risks it required, and, well, there it is. But I don’t think everyone in the East is similarly dissipated or disposed; most of them haven’t had their day in the economic sun yet. It’s their turn now, and I don’t think they’ll be very happy if the West tries to interfere.

And, even if the East embraces more statism it will probably prefer its own brand of it, instead of the western brand. Why wouldn’t it?

In summary, as goes the western economies, so goes western clout in Asia, and the closer we get to the day when some advanced Asian nation tells some important western official to shut up. Or maybe some other small event will get the avalanche going. But you can be sure it will be something, and the latent tensions between East and West will snap into more tangible scraps.

Where will this leave Saipan? Well, I guess western tensions with Asia would, initially mean more money would be poured into Saipan to shore up its defensive viability.

But in the longer run, well, the European powers have, one by one, sunk into their own problems, and have mostly lost their grips on Asia. I thought of this recently, as I stood on the steps of St. Andrew’s church in Kowloon, Hong Kong. I could almost hear the crumbling edifice of western glory, vitality, and power sinking into the gray mire of dissipation and bureaucratic collectivism. Britannia no longer rules the waves. Heck, it can barely keep a grip on London. The U.S. took up the torch, so to speak, but now it can barely keep a grip on San Diego or Tucson. Who to pass the torch to? Nobody. The West has, well, run its course.

I don’t know what language will be spoken on Saipan in, say, two generations, but I doubt it will be English. I just hope that, whichever dictionary is chosen, the switch is made with a polite bow, or perhaps a handshake, and not with artillery.

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LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

A master plan toward progress

Former CNMI Judge Jose S. DelaCruz, Tony Pelligrino and Hyatt General Manager Nick Nishikawa have made statements in our newspapers that are proactive, not reactive. That’s a great step forward but they fall short of what I feel is actually needed.

We need an articulated, detailed, flexible, master plan for progressing toward the quality of life we desire. Planning on a CNMI-wide basis is of paramount importance. Locally available expertise can be utilized to implement what I have in mind. Here’s how to do it.

First we need to ask ourselves this question: What do we want the CNMI to be like in 20, 30, or 50 years? Then set up the Economic Summit suggested by Mr. DelaCruz. Three questions need to be addressed to realize this summit. Who should be the participants? Where and when should it be held? Who should be the participants? The participants should include folks with the following characteristics and you know who you are. Contributors attending the summit:

- 1. Should understand that *change* is normal and that the rate of change is increasing.
- 2. Should see events as interrelated, not separate and unconnected.
- 3. When looking at change, recognize the need for a whole system perspective.
- 4. Need to understand that there are many possible alternative future scenarios. There are probable, possible, and preferable futures.
- 5. Should be able to identify goals that will make the preferable future more probable.

A tribute to a friend

Frank Pangelinan “Bokonggo will be missed in the CNMI, Guam and mainland United States by the thousands of Chamorro music fans. His passing away in Guam last week has saddened and shocked many of his friends on Saipan, Guam and those who knew Frank as a very aggressive and a dynamic musician.

Frank Bokonggo, as he is known in the CNMI, Guam and other Chamorro music fans living in the West Coast in the U.S. mainland, is a legend when it comes to Chamorro music. His song *Triste Yu* made Frank Pangelinan the most popular and admired entertainer for some time. Although Frank will be physically missed, his spirit will live in the hearts of many of us who remember him as a very popular artist in the CNMI.

Frank Bokonggo’s contribution in promoting and preserving the local music such as *Triste Yu, I Pution, Ingratto, Gi Talo Gi Halom Tasi, Patgon Neni, Down by the Shore of Saipan*

Hago I Inan I Langet, and many other popular Chamorro songs, including the Chamolinian Christmas album that Frank Bokonggo, Candy Taman and the late Quirino Aquino recorded will long be remembered as part of Frank’s contribution to the Chamorro cultural heritage.

I remember the good old days when our group, Tropic Settee, was the island’s most successful and popular group of musicians in the ’70s and ’80s before Frank departed for Guam to share his talent with our fellow Chamorros there. The Tropic Settee included Frank Bokonggo on lead guitar and lead vocals, Candy Taman on the rhythm section and vocals, Ron Del Rosario on the bass gui-

Spectacular performance

Just recently, Mount Carmel School’s Theater Club put on a spectacular performance for their latest production, *It’s a Wonderful Life*. The past few months have been an interesting journey for our Theater Club. Putting this whole play together was a challenge for us. However, we managed to pull through with the incredible support from our community and ended up putting on an amazing performance.

The message this Christmas classic holds is something we often forget. In this lifetime full of problems and difficulties, we sometimes fail to realize how wonderful our lives really are. We focus so much on the bitter and bad times in our lives that we never really care to remember about the good, wonderful moments we have experienced. We felt that the message of this play was fitting, especially now under these difficult times.

This production would not have been possible without the help and support of many people. To the cast and crew of our Theater Club, thank you for your hard work and for all the effort you have put into this play. You truly deserve a lot of praise. To Mr. Gal-

Where is Saipan: Part 2

Where is Saipan? asked by Mr. George. No one—not a one in the time since I moved away from the CNMI—has known anything about Saipan. Not the USA consulate in Panama who said I had to prove I lived inside the USA knew, not the immigration officers in Florida, not a single U.S. citizen other than those I knew from my time in Micronesia—not anyone. When I told others where it was, they only knew what was written in magazines about sweatshops. They expressed dismay and negative attitudes. I did not say much but asked questions and found they

- 6. Should be able to recognize the values on which the preferable future is to be based.
 - 7. Should have the ability to commit energy, resources, and time to create the preferable future desired.
 - 8. Should recognize and internalize that everything, including our future, is uncertain.
 - 9. Should be aware that everything we do (or don’t do) has consequences for which we must take the blame or the credit.
 - 10. Must have a gut feeling of the importance of their ideas, values, and positive visions as they relate to creating a better future, i.e., we can make a difference!
 - 11. Must accept the concept that what each person does today will impact tomorrow.
 - 12. Recognize the importance of short-, medium-, and long-range planning. We cannot leave the future to chance, but must proactively try to create the future we prefer for ourselves and our posterity.
- For us to have a preferable future, we must all recognize that our choices and actions in the present will have an impact on creating this preferable future. We must realize that each of us is creating the future that we will be living and working in by what we think and do in our everyday lives and that we have choices in what we do. We must make a personal commitment to do something—no matter how small it may seem—that we feel can help make this world a better place. We’ve already started making a better future when we smile and are cordial to strang-

tar, Jun P.P.D. Duenas on keyboards and myself on the drums. Our group concentrated on promoting the Chamolinian hits of the ’60s, ’70s and ’80s. We performed at the Saipan Grand Hotel. From there we moved on to the Oleai Room at the Saipan Bowling Center where our group performed for several years. I must admit the song *Patgon Neni* was our most popular song, which brought the whole island to Oleai Room every weekend to listen to this song which originated from the island of Pohnpei.

Tropic Settee’s versatility in entertaining the young, the middle-aged, and the *man’amko* was one reason for our success. Let me also recognize my friend, Candy Taman for his very dynamic and God-given talent that made our band one of the most successful and respected groups ever assembled in the CNMI. With the Christmas season is right upon us, we will continue to hear Frank’s golden voice, together with Candy Taman and the late Quirino Aquino singing their Chamolinian Christmas collection of songs.

There were several requests during the last five years for a reunion of our band, Tropic Settee, so that our fans and people will be able to hear some of our very popular hits back then. However, health and other concerns prevented our group from coming together.

To my brother Frank Bokonggo, may our prayers guide you in your journey with the Lord to your final resting place. God bless you.

Adios,

Herbert Del Rosario

Band Leader (Tropic Settee Band)

vin Deleon Guerrero, thank you so much for everything you have done and for taking your time to make this a great production. To all the supporters of the Mount Carmel School Theater Club, parents, students, community members and fans, thank you for making our production some of the best our islands have ever seen. To the Saipan Southern High School Manta Ray band, thank you for your wonderful performance. We look forward to working with you soon. And to the hundreds of people who came to watch our show, the success of our production would not have been possible without your presence. Thank you so much and we hope you enjoyed the show! We look forward to continue bringing many great theater productions to our islands in the near future.

Thank you once again and happy holidays!

Ryan Ortizo

*Mount Carmel School
Chalan Kanoa, Saipan*

were quite ignorant in all ways in reference to the CNMI. I’m not much for generalizations, but I’m sure others will find that very, very few really know much at all about the CNMI, its citizens, its economic needs, its business, or its history. The sad part is those that know so little may be in control of its future, and many non-citizens and newcomers welcome this.

William Mccue

Wellington, Florida

ers. After all, a stranger is just a friend that you haven’t met yet.

What should be addressed at this summit? Establishing goals and the activities required for improving the areas of most concern to this community. What are they? Healthcare, education, public safety, and infrastructure. Remember, events in each of these areas are interrelated and have direct bearing on our economy, which in turn has direct bearing on our quality of life.

Where and when should this summit be held? Mr. Nishikawa, could the Hyatt provide a venue and some support? I know it would be done well. I estimate 100 participants give or take. When? As soon as possible, ASAP. It is obvious that the public cannot rely on elected leaders to provide the wherewithal to accomplish what I am proposing. While some may think me presumptuous, I am more than willing to take on the coordinating responsibilities needed to see this summit materialize. Contact me at ludwick@itecnmi.com or 322-4950. Hopefully, I can count on the assistance of Judge DelaCruz and Tony Pellegrino, and the rest of those proactive individuals in our community. I can’t do it alone. Let me hear from you. Of course, plans don’t get implemented without work. After the results of the summit are produced, our whole community of proactive people will have to work together to see that these fruits come to fruition. As a friend of mine once said, “Talk is cheap.” Let’s get on with it!

Roger N. Ludwick

Sadog Tasi, Saipan

Tribute to Bokuño:

It is sad tidings to see a friend leave when we least expect it. Yet there’s the silent joy of heading home to claim his trophy in that goldmine in the skies. How untimely it is that Francisco Pangelinan (Bokuño) passed away in Guam two weeks ago. His passing brought fond memories of our days as established musicians with the Tropicsette.

This was the first combo that recorded an album together with music materials written by icons down to those scribbled by contemporary songwriters, including several of his own father’s original material. *Honolulu City Lights* was the biggest hit in the Pacific when we were working with Charfuros Studio on Guam.

Bokuño remained an elite musician joining a real giant, Candy Taman, the Piluñg, for gigs out of Armantes and other nightclubs in Guam. They’ve done gigs together or individually throughout the years. Their last stint was the birthday of Bishop Tomas Camacho about two years ago at the Hyatt Regency Saipan.

My buddy could belt anything from Latin rock to traditional songs with super renditions. Perhaps his best hit was the adaption *Tristeyu* that was in the hearts and minds of both young and old for many years now. This song became an international classic, picked up by other musicians the world over using their native tongue.

Bokuño even joined fellow musicians from Guam at a Las Vegas gig that brought together islanders from across the country. It was one successful performance featuring Johnny Sablan and Jimmy Dee, giants in their rights as crooners from our southerly neighbor. Indeed, who is to question Bokuño’s meteoric career and iconic accomplishment after he sang of life’s trials and triumphs—through his music—for three decades.

Si Yuus Maase primo pot todo i man-senmames siha na memorias gi duranten tiempota. I hinanaomu u felis ya un` matagam ni korun man-añghet gi kareramu hulo`. I lago mame u marena gi mapagahes puede ke u fresco kareramu guato gi paraison taihenekog na trañkilat gi lañget i Sainata. Bien biahe yan adios.

Huñgan, Ko`, Tristeyu`.

John S. DelRosario Jr.

Tropicsette

Betel nut soldiers

Dear Colonel Alexander Sablan: This is to inform you that your betel nut soldiers are up to their old tricks again of carelessly spitting their betel nut juice on the ground, on pavements, on roads, on parking lots, on public building walls, in trash cans, out of moving car windows and moving car doors, etc.

I recall you wrote a plea to your betel nut soldiers that was published in both newspapers begging them to chew responsibly and tightly contain their spit in spittoons, and dispose of the spittoons in trash cans when they’re done. I would greatly appreciate it if you’d gather your soldiers and educate them once again on responsible betel nut chewing. It’s in the best interest of all citizens of Saipan and the CNMI. Keep in mind that there are a large number of locals that do not chew betel nut.

All in the interest of a sanitary, hospitable Saipan/CNMI. Thank you Colonel Sablan.






Philip Leyland

Navy Hill, Saipan

Satellite image and accompanying information are provided by the National Weather Service. For an updated weather forecast, visit the National Weather Service Guam Homepage: www.prh.noaa.gov/guam/

The Weather

5-Day Forecast for Saipan and Tinian

TODAY	SATURDAY	SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY
				
Mostly cloudy and breezy with scattered showers. Southeast winds 20 to 25 mph.	Partly cloudy with isolated showers. Southeast winds 10 to 15 mph.	Partly cloudy with isolated showers.	Partly cloudy with isolated showers.	Partly cloudy with isolated showers.
▲85° ▼77°	▲87° ▼78°	▲87° ▼78°	▲87° ▼78°	▲87° ▼77°

Micronesia

Guam and Rota	Rain	▲82 ▼75
Palau	Showers	▲88 ▼77
Yap	Showers	▲86 ▼77
Chuuk	Showers	▲88 ▼78
Pohnpei	Showers	▲86 ▼75
Kosrae	Showers	▲88 ▼79
Majuro	Showers	▲84 ▼76

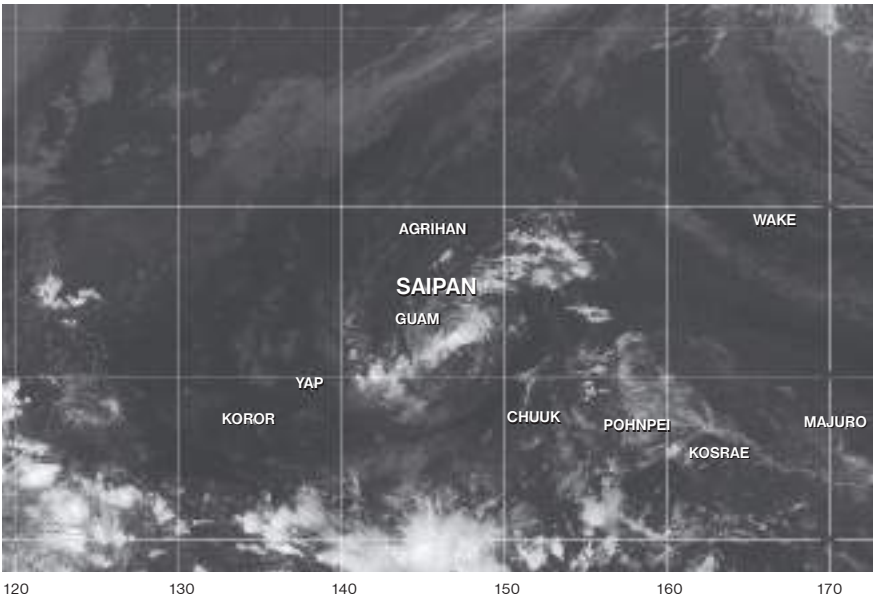
Around The Globe

Auckland	Rain	▲68 ▼61
Beijing	Cloudy	▲41 ▼17
Hong Kong	Cloudy	▲70 ▼65
Honolulu	Cloudy	▲80 ▼71
London	Cloudy	▲43 ▼37
Los Angeles	Mostly Sunny	▲68 ▼52
Manila	Cloudy	▲88 ▼72
Melbourne	Showers	▲74 ▼62
Miami	Cloudy	▲71 ▼56
New York	Showers	▲39 ▼26
Osaka	Sunny	▲53 ▼39
Paris	Partly Sunny	▲41 ▼30
Pusan	Sunny	▲54 ▼36
Rome	Rain	▲52 ▼42
Salem	Rain	▲45 ▼39
San Francisco	Sunny	▲57 ▼47
Seoul	Dreary	▲47 ▼25
Tokyo	Cloudy	▲56 ▼43
Washington, DC	Cloudy	▲44 ▼29

Tides

Saipan Harbor		
12:51AM Today	Low Tide:	0.7 Feet
8:05AM Today	High Tide:	2.0 Feet
1:10PM Today	Low Tide:	1.3 Feet
6:04PM Today	High Tide:	2.2 Feet

Yesterday's Satellite Image



PICTURE TIME: 1:00AM, THURSDAY, DEC. 11, 2008

Western North Pacific between equator and 25N from 130E to 180.

Tropical depression (27W) has formed near 12N150E or about 360 miles east of Guam. TD (27W) is moving west at 15 mph with maximum sustained winds of 30 mph. Scattered showers and isolated thunderstorms are occurring between 8N and 16N from 146E to 152E. For more detailed information, see JTWC bulletins under WMO header WTPN31 PGTW. A surface trough west of Guam extends from 8N146E northwestward to 11N141E to northeastward to 25N150E. Scattered showers are found along and out to 100 miles northeast of the trough. A shear line runs northeastward from 18N130E to beyond 25N141E. Scattered showers are found along and out to 100 miles northwest of the shear line. Another shear line extends from 25N157E southeastward through Wake Island at 19N166E to 16N175E then continues eastward beyond 16N180. Scattered showers are occurring along and out to 70 miles northeast of the shear line. Scattered showers and isolated thunderstorms are found between the equator and 3N from 138E to 143E and south of Pohnpei between the equator and 4N from 155E to 163E.

Sunrise/Sunset

Today	6:33AM	5:48 PM
Saturday	6:34AM	5:48 PM
Sunday	6:35AM	5:49 PM
Monday	6:35AM	5:49 PM
Tuesday	6:36AM	5:50 PM

Moonrise/Moonset

Today	5:14PM	5:44 AM
Saturday	6:22PM	6:52 AM
Sunday	7:31PM	7:58 AM
Monday	8:37PM	8:57 AM
Tuesday	9:39PM	9:48 AM

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The *Saipan Tribune* accepts for FREE publication the following:

PICTURES

- ISLAND SNAPSHOTS Birthdays, baptisms, christenings, family gatherings, reunions, club activities, and other community-related events.
- BIRTHDAY GREETINGS A way for families and friends to greet their loved ones, accompanied by a picture of the person celebrating his/her birthday.
- BUSINESS Corporate donations, volunteer work, promotions, granting of awards, team-building exercises, meetings and other activities by members of the business community.
- SAMU'T SARI Pictures from the islands' Filipino community, primarily focusing on Filipino activities, gatherings, get-togethers, volunteer work, etc.
- TRAVELOGUE Pictures of off-island travels. Contributors may submit up to 10 pictures for consideration.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

- COMMUNITY BRIEFS

Announcements of upcoming activities of organizations, community clubs, government agencies, and private companies.

CAMPUS BULLETIN

Announcements of upcoming activities in public and private schools, as well as calendar of activities. May include PTSA meetings, enrollment procedures.

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For pictures:

- Photos should be original and not copyrighted. Contributors must have the right to allow the *Saipan Tribune* to publish the pictures.
- Digital pictures should be high-resolution (minimum of 800kb).
- Must have complete details (who, what, where, when), the name of contact person, and phone number.
- Photos must have been taken in the last two months.
- For birthday greetings, must be submitted no later than 12 noon of the previous day to make it to next day's edition.

For announcements:

- Must have complete details (who, what, where, when),

the name of contact person, and a phone number.

- Must be submitted no later than 12 noon to make it to next day's edition.

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 - Fax: (670) 235-3740
 - Mail: PMB 34, P.O. Box 10001, Saipan, CNMI 96950
 - Drop off: 2nd Floor, CIC Center, Beach Road, Garapan, Saipan
- To check if contributions are received, call (670) 235-6397, 235-2440, 235-8747

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- The *Saipan Tribune* will decide how often community announcements are going to be published.
- For Travelogue, the *Saipan Tribune* reserves the right to choose which pictures to publish.

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ADVERTISING For inquiries contact (670) 235-2769. E-mail: sales@saipantribune.com

FLIGHT SCHEDULE AS OF NOVEMBER 19, 2008

DEPARTURES	ARRIVALS
Saipan-Rota CO9597 11:50am 12:25pm 1,7	Rota-Saipan CO 9598 3:25am 4:00am 5,6
Saipan-Guam CO9317 5:00am 5:50am Daily CO9313 8:30am 9:20am Daily CO9597 11:50am 1:20pm 1,7 via Rota CO9601 12:30pm 1:20pm 2,3,4,5,6 CO9603 3:30pm 4:20pm Daily CO9605 6:30pm 7:20pm Daily CO9599 9:30pm 10:20pm Daily	Guam-Saipan CO 9316 2:30am 3:20am 1,2,3,4,7 CO9598 2:30am 4:00am 5,6 via Rota CO9596 7:00am 7:50am Daily CO9600 10:20am 11:10am Daily CO9602 2:00pm 2:50pm Daily CO9604 5:00pm 5:50pm Daily CO9606 8:00pm 8:50pm Daily
Saipan-Narita NW 099 5:00am 7:40am Daily NW 078 8:25am 1:30pm 2,3,4,5,6,7 NW 075 4:55pm 7:30pm Daily	Narita-Saipan NW 076 10:15am 2:40pm Daily NW 077 6:25pm 1:25am+1 2,3,4,5,6,7 NW 100 8:45pm 1:15am+1 Daily
Saipan-Osaka NW 083 4:30pm 7:20pm Daily	Osaka-Saipan NW 084 10:40am 3:10pm Daily
Saipan-Nagoya NW 078 8:25am 11:05am Daily	Nagoya-Saipan NW 077 9:00pm 1:25am+1 Daily
Saipan-Incheon OZ 604 2:10am 6:00am 1 OZ 604 2:40am 6:30am 2,3,4,5,6,7 OZ 606 3:20pm 7:00pm Daily	Incheon-Saipan OZ 605 9:00am 2:20pm Daily OZ 603 7:40pm 1:00am+1 7 OZ 603 8:10pm 1:30am+1 1,2,3,4,5,6
Saipan-Busan OZ 608 3:50am 7:20am 1,4,5,7	Busan-Saipan OZ 607 9:30pm 2:40am+1 3,4,6,7
Saipan-Shanghai FM 844 2:50am 5:40am 2,6	Shanghai-Saipan FM 843 7:15pm 1:50am+1 1,5
Rota-Guam CO 9597 12:50pm 1:20pm 1,7	Guam-Rota CO 9598 2:30am 3:00am 5,6
Guam-Manila CO 893 5:50pm 9:10pm 3,5 via Koror CO 933 8:00pm 9:40pm Daily PR 111 6:00am 7:50am 1,2,4,6,7	Manila-Guam CO 892 10:10pm 5:30am+1 3,5 via Koror CO 934 11:10pm 4:40am+1 Daily PR 110 10:10pm 4:00am+1 1,3,5,6,7
Editor's Note: Days: Monday (1), Tuesday (2), Wednesday (3), Thursday (4), Friday (5), Saturday (6) and Sunday (7); CO: Continental; FM: Shanghai Airlines; PR: Philippine Airlines; NW: Northwest; OZ: Asiana ETD: Estimated Time of Departure; ETA: Estimated Time of Arrival. The Saipan Tribune is not responsible for any changes in the schedule.)	

FREEDOM AIR FLIGHT SCHEDULE

Airline	ETD	ETA	Frequency	Airline	ETD	ETA	Frequency
Guam-Rota				FRE 113	11:40am	11:50am	Daily
FRE 100 7:00am 7:30am Daily				FRE 115	1:00pm	1:10pm	Daily
Rota-Saipan				FRE 117	2:30pm	2:40pm	Daily
FRE 100 7:50am 8:20am Daily				FRE 119	4:00pm	4:10pm	Daily
Saipan-Rota				FRE 121	4:40pm	4:50pm	Daily
FRE 200 9:00am 9:30am Daily				FRE 123 *	5:40pm	5:50pm	Daily
Rota-Guam				FRE 125 *	6:00pm	6:10pm	Daily
FRE 200 9:50am 10:15am Daily				Tinian-Saipan w/ connecting flights to Rota or Guam**			
Guam-Rota				FRE 102	7:05am	7:15am	Daily
FRE 300 4:00pm 4:30pm Daily				FRE 104	7:50am	8:00am	Daily
Rota-Saipan				FRE 106**	8:20am	8:30am	Daily
FRE 300 4:50pm 5:25pm Daily				FRE 108**	9:00am	9:10am	Daily
Saipan-Rota				FRE 110	10:00am	10:10am	Daily
FRE 400 6:00pm 6:30pm Daily				FRE 112	11:05am	11:15am	Daily
Rota-Guam				FRE 114	12:00pm	12:10pm	Daily
FRE 400 6:45pm 7:15pm Daily				FRE 116	1:30pm	1:40pm	Daily
Saipan-Tinian				FRE 118	2:50pm	3:00pm	Daily
FRE 101 6:45am 6:55am Daily				FRE 120**	4:20pm	4:30pm	Daily
FRE 103 7:30am 7:40am Daily				FRE 122**	5:00pm	5:10pm	Daily
FRE 105 8:00am 8:10am Daily				FRE 124	6:05pm	6:15pm	Daily
FRE 107 8:40am 8:50am Daily				FRE 126	6:20pm	6:30pm	Daily
FRE 109* 9:10am 9:20am Daily							
FRE 111* 10:45am 10:55am Daily							



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- *11 on any PTI cellular phone
- Log on to the internet at www.nmicrimestoppers.com



HAFA ADAI DELI BAKERY! Classic Christmas Feast

DECEMBER 12 THRU JANUARY 3, 2009

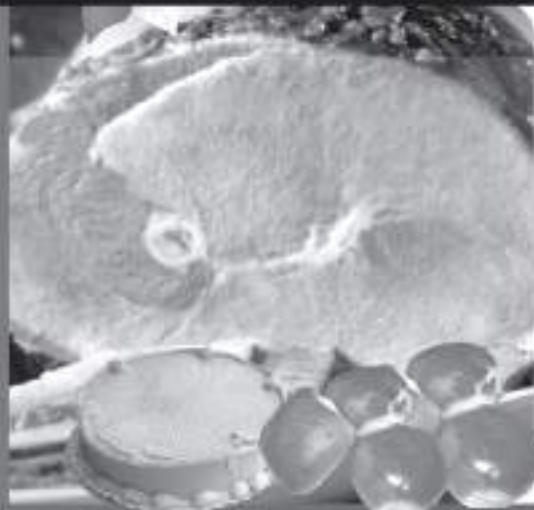


This Christmas host a Delicious Holiday Feast your family will savor.



SUCKLING PIG
from 32 lbs. to 50 lbs.
\$4.60/lb.

FIRST 50 CUSTOMERS RECEIVE A FREE CASE OF HAFA ADAI WATER



Holiday Package A
SMOKED HAM GLAZED

(20 to 24lbs.)
1 Vanilla Cake 9"
1 Dozen Dinner Roll

\$74.95



Holiday Package B
TURKEY

(18 to 20lbs.)
with Stuffing and Gravy
1 Vanilla Cake 9"
1 Dozen Dinner Roll

\$66.95



Classic Feast Package 1
SMOKED HAM GLAZED (20-24 lbs.)
TURKEY (18-20 lbs.)
with Stuffing and Gravy

1 Mocha Cake 9"
1 Custard Pie 9"

\$130.95



Classic Feast Package 2
PICNIC HAM (5-9 lbs.)
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FHB execs graduate from Pacific Coast Banking School

HAGÅTÑA, Guam—Six First Hawaiian Bank executives have graduated from the Pacific Coast Banking School, according to an announcement by Don Horner, president and chief executive officer at First Hawaiian Bank.

The First Hawaiian Bank executives included Edwin K. Char, vice president and manager, Deposit Products Department; Jerome K. Fukuhara, vice president and manager, Retail Information & Planning Department; Mitchell M. Kaaialii, assistant vice president and business banking officer, Main Banking Center; Keith H. Nagata, senior vice president and division manager, Business Services Division; Edward G. Untalan, vice president and banking center manager, Maite Branch on Guam; and Jeffrey S. Ventura, vice president and

area manager, Waipahu Branch.

Char was awarded the Kermit O. Hanson Award for Excellence for receiving the highest grades out of 228 students on all written assignments, including the management report. The Kermit O. Hanson Award for Excellence is named in honor of Kermit O. Hanson, Dean Emeritus of the University of Washington, Graduate School of Business and a former PCBS Edu-



Kaaialii

cation Director. This award has been given out since 1991 to students with the highest accumulation of points on five extension assignments and the final management report.

Also, both Kaaialii and Ventura graduated with honors, a distinction awarded to the top 10 percent in the class. Kaaialii's management report,



Nagata



Untalan

a requirement of all students, was selected for inclusion in the school's Lending Library.

This year's graduating class consisted of 228 individuals representing a diverse mix of financial institutions from around the county. Twenty-eight high-achievers were named to the honor roll and 23 had their management reports selected for inclusion in the Lending Library.



Fukuhara

Since 1938, in partnership with the University of Washington, Graduate School of Business, over 10,000 participants have graduated from PCBS, with hundreds of graduates currently serving as CEOs of financial institutions and hundred more serving in key leadership roles across the country. PCBS offers a three-year

graduate level program of leadership and financial management education focused on the financial services industry. Over the three-year period, participants attend three two-week resident sessions in August on the University of Washington campus, and complete six inter-session written extension assignments including an original management report.

First Hawaiian Bank (www.fhb.com) with assets of over \$12.8 billion was founded in 1858 and is Hawaii's oldest and largest bank. This year First Hawaiian Bank is celebrating its 150th year in business. It operates 58 branches in Hawaii, three on Guam and two on Saipan. It is a subsidiary of BancWest Corp. (www.bancwestcorp.com), a financial holding company. **(FHB)**



Ventura



Char

Unlock the Mysteries of Financial Aid And Find Money for College!

High school juniors and seniors, first-year college students, and their parents are invited to a FREE Financial Aid Workshop to learn more about federal, local, and private sources of financial aid opportunities like:

- Federal Financial Aid (FAFSA)
- CACP Tuition Waivers
- Asian & Pacific Islander American Scholarship Fund
- Gates Millennium Scholarship
- CNMI Scholarship
- SHEFA Scholarship
- And MORE!

Financial aid experts will walk participants through filling out application forms and answer any questions about finding money for college. Participants who attend the FREE Financial Aid Workshop will also receive:

- A fee waiver for NMC application and placement test fees for the Spring 2009 semester!
- Up to 200 Meal vouchers will be distributed for the Thursday Night Street Market!

The FREE Financial Aid Workshop will be held on December 18, 2008 at the Hibiscus Hall, Fiesta Resort from 5pm to 7pm

This advertisement is paid for with federal funds made possible by a grant from the U.S. Department of Education, College Access Challenge Grant Program.



Loyola to graduate 11 nursing students

Eleven nursing students are set to graduate from the University of Loyola at CNMI during its first commencement exercises to be held at the Pacific Islands Club on Dec. 17, Wednesday, at 6pm.

The University of Loyola is the only private institution in the CNMI that offers a program leading to an Associate of Science Degree in Nursing. The two-year program offers students the opportunity to develop knowledge and skills necessary to promote better health care for people in the CNMI and elsewhere.

Gov. Benigno R. Fitial will be the keynote speaker, while University of Loyola at CNMI president/CEO Dr. Johnny Y. Fong and Health Secretary Joseph Kevin Villagomez will deliver the opening and closing remarks, respectively.

"Our nursing graduates have demonstrated the quality of UOL's nursing program to the medical community during their stay at the Commonwealth Health Center. UOL is very pleased that we will play a part in alleviating the nursing shortage in the CNMI and in making the CNMI the bas-

tion of US education in the Pacific," Dr. Fong said.

Presenting the candidates for graduation will be the dean of the university's nursing program, Karen A. Buettner, M.S., C.N.S., R.N.

The University of Loyola currently has 35 students enrolled in the nursing program, including the 11 candidates for graduation.

ASDN graduates are eligible to take the National Council Licensure Examination for registered nurses. Once they pass the NCLEX, graduates may opt to work right away as registered nurses who are in great demand in many parts of the world today, including the United States.

NCLEX-RN passers are qualified to enter a variety of careers such as staff nurses in acute care settings, home health agencies or long term care facilities.

The University of Loyola is also now open for enrollment of the third batch of students in the ASDN program. Classes for the third batch will start on Feb. 2, 2009.

For more information on how to enroll, call (670) 234-8008 or 234-8004, or send an email to admissions@uolcnmi.com. (PR)

Peroni Italy presents Discover on Dec. 19

On Dec. 19, 2008 Peroni Italy, the world's fastest-growing number one Italian beer, will be hosting *Discover* at Palms Resort Saipan.

The event will be an innovative way to discover the meaning of style, presenting Peroni Italy, the new Palms Resort Saipan wine menu, including fine wines from Kendall-Jackson Estates, as well as ready-to-drink premium martinis from Cocktails by Jenn. Expert brand advisors will be on hand to provide further information on these distinctive portables. Guests will also be treated to an elegant spread of sumptuous Italian hors d'oeuvres.

Peroni Italy's *Discover* will also showcase the 2009 Hyundai Genesis from Triple J, and cellular phones including Blackberry by Docomo Pacific. The night will culminate in a fashion extravaganza by Events Unlimited featuring the latest styles from Pena House Boutique.

Discover will be held at Palms Resort Saipan starting at 6pm.

"With a new general manager, Mustaffa Issa, ongoing upgrades

to an already-beautiful property, and an exceptional chef with a passion for Italian cuisine, Palms Resort Saipan was the ideal setting for *Discover*," said Pacific Trading Co. general manager Charles Cepeda.

Discover is an invitation-only



event. However, anyone interested in attending is encouraged to contact Glen Hunter at glen.hunter@mplgum.com or call Pacific Trading Company at 322-5483

The world's fastest growing number one premium Italian beer, Peroni Italy was acquired by SABMiller in 2003 and added to Pacific Trading Co.'s beverage portfolio in October 2008. (PR)

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2X4X14 - \$5.30	2X4X14 - \$7.70
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2X4X18 - \$6.70	2X4X18 - \$9.70
2X4X20 - \$7.20	2X4X20 - \$10.70
2X6X12 - \$6.90	2X6X12 - \$10.20
2X6X14 - \$7.90	2X6X14 - \$12.20
2X6X16 - \$8.90	2X6X16 - \$14.20
2X6X18 - \$9.90	2X6X18 - \$15.20
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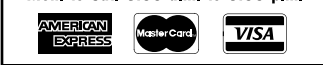
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USED CARS								
STOCK	YEAR	MODEL	TRANS.	MILEAGE	COLOR	LICENSE #	PRICE	REDUCED PRICE
TOYOTA SEDANS								
R08-015F	2005	ECHO 4DR	AUTO	59734	WHITE	ADJ-831	9,299	
R08-022B	2005	ECHO 4DR	AUTO	70447	AQUA	ADH-691	7,999	
R08-019F	2005	COROLLA 4DR	AUTO	41092	WHITE	ACD-346	10,799	
R08-023F	2007	COROLLA 4DR	AUTO	29549	RED	ACE-780	14,999	
R08-011F	2007	YARIS 4DR	AUTO	65940	SILVER	ACC-154	11,399	
R08-008F	2006	CAMRY LE 4DR	AUTO	18576	BEIGE	ADN-161	15,999	
R08-020F	2006	CAMRY LE 4DR	AUTO	50052	RED	ADO-831	15,999	
U08-043P	2000	CELICA 2DR	MANUAL	72097	BLUE	ABZ-838	7,999	
R08-021F	2005	MATRIX BASE	AUTO	68931	RED	ACD-510	9,999	
GM CARS								
R08-014F	2006	AVEO 4DR.	AUTO	33945	WHITE	ADS-642	9,999	
R07-013F	2005	AVEO HATCHBACK	AUTO	39164	ORANGE	ADO-022	9,599	6,899
R07-034F	2005	OPTRA 4DR.	AUTO	14592	SILVER	ACD-020	10,999	9,499
LEXUS								
U08-067P	1995	LEXUS LS400	AUTO	24762	WHITE	ABS-062	11,399	
R08-003F	2003	LEXUS LS430	AUTO	54477	IVORY	ADU-502	29,999	26,899
TOYOTA TRUCKS								
R07-038F	2004	TACOMA 4X2 XTRACAB	AUTO	49609	BEIGE	ABV-159	11,899	10,599
OTHER CARS & TRUCKS								
U07-106P	2004	HONDA CIVIC DX 4DR	AUTO	53147	SILVER	ADF-401	8,999	7,999
U07-107P	2004	HONDA CIVIC DX 4DR	AUTO	48755	SILVER	ADF-421	8,999	7,999
U07-034T	2000	NISSAN MAXIMA GXE 4DR.	AUTO	68648	WHITE	ACT-812	10,999	8,399
U07-104T	2003	NISSAN MURANO SE	AUTO	32000	PEWT	ABZ-615	16,799	15,299
U08-038T	2001	NISSAN MONTERO WGN	AUTO	93155	BEIGE	CVS-88	7,999	
U07-095T	1999	MAZDA MILLENNIA 4DR.SEDAN	AUTO	91014	BEIGE	ABP-583	7,999	4,899
GM VAN								
R08-017F	2003	EXPRESS VAN	AUTO	117560	WHITE	BUS-1077	9,499	
SPORT UTILITY								
U07-050T	2002	RAV4 4DR 4WD	AUTO	39182	WHITE	ABW-677	13,699	12,799



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Shenyang TV discovers sunny appeal of Saipan, Tinian

The Northern Mariana Islands of Saipan and Tinian have the opportunity to reach 10,000,000 television viewers in northeast China with images of the tropical vacation destination through this month's visit by Shenyang TV Station.

A seven-member team composed of editors, videographers, and reporters concluded a three-day tour of the Northern Mariana Islands on Dec. 8. The familiarization tour was aimed at gathering information for a television feature highlighting nature-based and gaming activities available to visitors from China.

"This is a continued indication of the growing interest of Chinese travelers to visit Saipan, Tinian and Rota," said Marianas Visitors Authority managing director Perry Tenorio of the

tour. "With this extensive filming session, Shenyang TV will be able to show that our islands offer visitors a variety of indoor and outdoor activities."

Upon their arrival at Saipan International Airport on Saturday, Dec. 6, the group cruised to Tinian onboard the inter-island ferry, where they were given a tour of the quiet, history-laden island, as well as the world-class gaming and accommodations at Tinian Dynasty Hotel and Casino.

The group returned to Saipan on Sunday, Dec. 7, for a tour of the island's historic and scenic sites, an afternoon on the beaches of Managaha Island, a sunset cruise in the glassy lagoon, and an off-road jungle tour. The group stayed at the luxurious Hafadai Crystal Tower at Hafadai Beach Hotel in Garapan.

Shenyang TV station, considered the flagship media outlet of Shenyang city in northeast China, was founded in 1979 and includes two radio channels, three cable channels, and cable coverage reaching approximately 10 million consumers. The television show they will produce will air repeatedly next month and will have a total value of over \$900,000US, but will cost Saipan, Tinian and Rota nothing but the islands' hospitality.

"We extend our thanks to our industry partners, Tinian Dynasty Holiday and Century Tours, for their extensive support in making this very valuable outreach possible," said Tenorio.

Tinian Dynasty Holiday and Century Tours provided airline tickets, accommodations, meals and tour guides for the filming and production crew. (MVA)

Monday deadline set for fulltime employees' scholarship

Full-time employees have until Monday, Dec. 15, 2008, to submit their application for the new scholarship offered by the CNMI Scholarship Office. The scholarship is available to

number of credits

■ Must maintain a cumulative GPA of 2.25 on a 4.0 scale

Scholarship applicants must also follow the same requirements under the Educational Assistance Program Rules and Regulations.

Applicants have until Feb. 28, 2009, to submit supporting documents. Once again, it is on a first-come, first-served basis, so applicants are encouraged to complete their application packets as soon as possible.

Copies of the application form, the rules and regulations, and the memorandum of agreement can be downloaded by logging on to www.cnmischolarship.com, can be obtained from the CNMI Scholarship Office, or can be downloaded from NMC's website at www.nmcnet.edu. For more information and to learn about other applicable requirements, contact the CNMI Scholarship Office at 664-4750.

For more information about NMC Degree and Certificate Programs, log on to www.nmcnet.edu. (NMC)

ON THE NET

- www.cnmischolarship.com
- www.nmcnet.edu

The scholarship funds will be available on a first-come, first-served basis, which means that the first 312 applicants who submit completed application packets (class schedule may be submitted at a later date) and who meet statutory requirements will be awarded.

Part-time applicants must submit the following to the CNMI Scholarship Office:

- 2008-2009 application (by December 15, 2008)
- Most recent official transcript
- Copy of passport and/or birth certificate with valid picture ID
- Acceptance Letter
- Provide proof of CNMI Residency for 2006 and 2007
- Submit Employment Verification showing full time employment in public or private sector
- Must be enrolled for 6-11 credits and maintain the same



BIRTHDAY MESSAGE

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Marcy P. Cepeda, right, will be celebrating her birthday this Sunday, Dec. 14, 2008. "Happy birthday, Grandma! We love you very much. May this birthday be filled with many, many blessings. We are very blessed and thankful to God for giving you more time to be with us. You are the best Grandma in the world!" Greetings come from your girls Elysha, Edinna, Patty and Emelsha. The birthday celebrant is shown here with granddaughter Emelsha A. Cepeda and husband Vic S. Cepeda.

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 2004 Ford Explorer XLT STOCK # 4UA51928 \$12,995⁰⁰*	 2005 Honda Civic DX STOCK # 5L002379 \$12,995⁰⁰*	 2005 Kia Sportage 4x4 STOCK # 57085101 \$14,995⁰⁰*
 2007 Ford Ranger King Cab STOCK # 7PA31120 \$16,995⁰⁰*	 2005 Nissan Frontier 4x4 STOCK # 5C411080 \$19,995⁰⁰*	


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Here is a quick quiz to find out your risk of a heart attack. If you don't know some of the answers, check with your health care provider.

	YES	NO	DON'T KNOW
Do you smoke?			
Is your blood pressure 140/90 mmHg or higher, OR have you been told by your doctor that your blood pressure is too high?			
Has your doctor told you that your total cholesterol level is 200 mg/dL or higher, OR your HDL (good cholesterol) is less than 40 mg/dL?			
Has your father or brother had a heart attack before age 55, OR has your mother or sister had one before age 65?			
Do you have diabetes OR a fasting blood sugar of 126 mg/dL or higher, OR do you need medicine to control your blood sugar?			
Are you over 55 years old?			
Do you have a body mass index (BMI) score of 25 or more?			
Do you get less than a total of 30 minutes of physical activity on most days?			
Has a doctor told you that you have angina (chest pains), OR have you had a heart attack?			

If you answered "yes" to any of these questions, you're at an increased risk of having a heart attack.

To learn more, visit www.hearttruth.gov

Source: The Healthy Heart Handbook for Women, National Heart, Lung, and Blood Institute (2007).

To learn more, please call the Division of Public Health – Wise Women Project at 234-8950 ext. 2141

The Wise Women Project is federally funded by the US DHHS Office on Women's Health ASIST2010 Initiative.



**CAREER DAY**

MVA

Students of Tanapag Elementary School learn more about the visitor industry during their career week in late November 2008, as Marianas Visitors Authority personnel manager Polly Deleon Guerrero and Community Projects coordinator Frank Tudela (both in red) spoke to fifth graders about career opportunities in tourism and the importance of making island visitors feel welcome.

Four winners of 2008 Pacific Human Rights Award named

SUVA, Fiji—Four courageous Pacific Islanders were honored with this year's RRRT/SPC Pacific Human Rights Award to mark the 60th anniversary of the adoption of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights.

The four will share a total of F\$7,500 in recognition of their extraordinary efforts in advancing human rights throughout the region.

Organized by the Pacific Regional Rights Resource Team of the Secretariat of the Pacific Community, the awards were presented in a ceremony in Suva Friday, Dec. 6, by Pacific Islands Forum Secretariat Secretary General Tuiloma Neroni Slade and International Human Rights Officer Tanya Smith of the Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights.

PNG Member of Parliament Dame Carol Kidu won the overall award for her outstanding contribution to promoting the rights of Pacific Islanders; Setareki Macanawai of the Pacific Disability Forum and Andonia Piau-Lynch of the Vanuatu Disability Promotion and Advocacy Association received special citations for advancing the rights of persons with disabilities; and Lynnsay Rongokea-Francis, a Cook Islander currently working with the Asia Pacific Forum for Women, Law and Development, received special recognition for her long-standing support for the rights of women.

Speaking on behalf of the panel of judges, Smith said the breadth of nominations was wide as it was varied.

"The nominees have been active in pursuing the rights of women, of the young and the elderly, of people with a disability and of the homeless," she said. "They have advocated in favor of the peaceful resolution of conflict, and for democracy, free speech and public accountability. They have put at risk their personal safety and financial security, and have persevered when their goals seemed unattainable."

RRRT/SPC received 18 nominations from across the region. Among a number of criteria, nominees must have demonstrated strong commitment to social justice, human rights, democracy and the rule of law, as well as a high degree of commitment in their personal lives and actions to the framework of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights.

This year's event was supported by the Australian Agency for International Development, the New Zealand Agency for International Development, Meridian Consulting and Star Printery Ltd.

RRRT provides human rights training, technical support, and policy and advocacy services tailored specifically for the Pacific region. RRRT is an SPC program under the Social Resources Division. (SPC)

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CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Six parent participants celebrated their Motherread course completion on Nov. 20, 2008 at Garapan Head Start center. Motherread adult course participants did a mini-presentation depicting the characters of the storybook *Love You Forever*, by Robert Munsch as their course closing activity. The Motherread/Fatheread adult course at the Garapan center was facilitated by Motherread certified parent trainer Rhea Penalosa-Chong. Florentino Amor, Tracy Joy Inaba, Geraldine Amor, Milagros Gomez, Gloria Flores, and Efren Pascual were the participants for the Garapan center.

37 parents complete Motherread/Fatheread course

A total of 37 parent participants recently completed the Motherread/Fatheread adult course at seven Head Start centers across the island. Site participants for each Head Start center prepared a closing activity for the one-and-a-half-hour, once-a-week, eight-week Motherread adult course.

Tinian Head Start center also held a mini-presentation to celebrate the Motherread course completion last Nov. 20, 2008. Six parent participants from Tinian Head Start center completed the adult course. The Motherread/Fatheread adult course sessions were facilitated

by Evelyn Evangelista, certified parent trainer.

Motherread facilitators/trainers commented that more couples are attending and participating in this cycle. Parents are now more aware of their tremendous influence in their children's educational well-being and they want to have a positive impact by actively participating in school activities and programs.

The successful completion of Motherread/Fatheread adult course session at seven Head Start centers was made possible through the collaboration of the CNMI Head Start's teachers,

staff, and administrators.

Also instrumental to the success of the Motherread program at the Head Start centers in this cycle were the inspired volunteerism of the Americops volunteers in providing learning activities to the children of parents that participated in the Motherread adult course sessions. The CNMI Motherread/Fatheread program cited the contributions of the Americops site supervisors, especially to Geri Willis, CNMI Americops director, in supporting the Motherread program not only on Saipan but also on Tinian and Rota. **(PR)**



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

At the Kagman Head Start Center, six parent participants coincided their Motherread/Fatheread adult course closing activity with the Kagman Head Start center student's Thanksgiving party. After a short presentation of certificates to the Motherread participating parents, students, parents, teachers, staff, and Motherread parent participants shared homemade dishes prepared for the occasion. Motherread trainer Celine Romolor-Route facilitated the once-a-week, eight-week adult course. The occasion was attended by the Head Start program director, Keiko Yamagata, and Head Start Family Advocate coordinator Malua Peters last Nov. 20, 2008. The participants were Ana Mendiola, Gene Weaver, Roxanne Weaver, Francisco Kapileo, Nicole Cepeda, and John Manalo.



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

San Antonio Head Start Center and Dandan Head Start Center Motherread/Fatheread adult course participating parents decided to combined their closing ceremony at San Antonio Elementary School cafeteria. Two participants from Dandan Head Start read aloud the storybook *Goldilocks and the Three Bears* as retold by James Marshall as their presentation for the course closing ceremony. Four participants from San Antonio Head Start center "animated" the story book *Knees Lifted High* by Georgia Perez, a book that promotes diabetes prevention and healthy living. The course completion ceremony was held last Nov. 19, 2008. Rhea Penalosa-Chong, Motherread trainer, facilitated the two Head Start centers. Dandan Head Start participants included Yolanda Manibusan and Cathy Palacios. The San Antonio Head Start participants were Nenita Espinosa, Erlinda Carandang, Erlinda Ruga, and Angeles Carandawa.



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Oleai Head Start center had five parent participants that completed the Motherread adult course. Certificates of completion were awarded on Nov. 17, 2008. As a closing activity, the five participants role played the characters of the timeless classic *Goldilocks and the Three Bears*, retold by James Marshall. The audience was mostly made up of family members, the students, and the Americorp volunteers who provided learning services to the child/children of the participating parents. The Oleai participants were: Reynaldo Briones, Johannes Obligation, Joaquina Santos, Ira Sheila Valle, Cancy Defang, and was facilitated by Motherread trainer Bryan Manabat. Also in the picture, Head Start program director Keiko Yamagata and Motherread program coordinator Viola Deleon Guerrero.

Motherread/Fatheread adult course participants at Chalan Kanoa Head Start center gathered together for the course completion ceremony on Nov. 26, 2008. Eight Motherread/Fatheread parent participants portrayed the characters of *Love You Forever* by Robert Munsch to the enjoyment of students, guests, and family members present. Keiko Yamagata, Head Start program director, and Motherread program coordinator Viola Deleon Guerrero presented the certificates of completion to the participants. Mary Jane Limes and Bryan Manabat, Motherread certified trainers, co-facilitated the course sessions. The C.K. Head Start center participants were Antonio Cabrera, Joyce McCarthy, Emerose Deleon, Isni Bokuku, Jocelyn Anastacio, Mariel Falalimpa, Ivan Garces, and Esterlita Eliares.

Business

House OKs \$14B auto bill—but it's still in peril

WASHINGTON (AP)—A \$14 billion rescue package for the nation's imperiled auto industry sped to approval in the House Wednesday night, but the emergency bailout was still in jeopardy from Republicans who were setting out roadblocks in the Senate.

Democrats and the Bush White House hoped for a Senate vote as early as Thursday and enactment by week's end. They argued that the loans authorized by the measure were needed to stave off disaster for the auto industry—and a crushing further blow to the reeling national economy.

The legislation, approved 237-170 by the House, would provide money within days to cash-starved General Motors Corp. and Chrysler LLC. Ford Motor Co., which has said it has enough to stay afloat, would also be eligible for federal aid.

Republicans were preparing a strong fight against the aid plan in the Senate, not only taking on the Democrats but standing in open revolt against their party's lame-duck president on the measure.

The Republicans want to force the companies into bankruptcy or mandate hefty concessions from autoworkers and creditors as a

condition of any federal aid. They also oppose an environmental mandate that House Democrats insisted on including in the measure.

House Speaker Nancy Pelosi said the House-passed bill represented "tough love" for U.S. auto companies and "giving a chance - this one more chance—to this great industry."

The White House, struggling to sell the package to congressional Republicans, said earlier that a carmaker bankruptcy could be fatal to the auto industry and have a devastating impact on workers, families and the economy.

"We believe the legislation

developed in recent days is an effective and responsible approach to deal with troubled automakers and ensure the necessary restructuring occurs," said Dana Perino, the White House press secretary.

The House Republican leader, Rep. John A. Boehner, R-Ohio, second from left, gets a word of consolation from Rep. John Salazar, D-Colo., left, after the auto industry bailout vote passed in the face of strong GOP opposition, at the Capitol in Washington, Wednesday, Dec. 10, 2008.



AP

Wall Street expects jobless claims to rise

WASHINGTON (AP)—Wall Street expects the government to report that new claims for unemployment benefits increased last week as companies ramped-up layoffs amid the recession.

The jobless claims report comes a day after the federal government said the monthly budget deficit reached a record in November, in part because of increased spending on programs such as unemployment insurance and food stamps.

The number of new claims for jobless benefits is projected to increase to a seasonally adjusted 525,000, up from 509,000 the previous week, according to Wall Street economists surveyed by Thomson Reuters.

Claims late last month reached 543,000, their highest level in 16 years. Economists said the drop to 509,000 was partly due to volatility from the Thanksgiving holiday week.

Last week's report showed the number of people continuing to claim unemployment benefits reached nearly 4.09 million, the highest level since December 1982. Economists expect that number rose to 4.1 million.

Even when the larger work force is factored in, the proportion of workers who are continuing to receive jobless benefits matches a level last reached in September 1992, when the economy was recovering from a recession.

"The underlying trend in claims is still strongly upwards," Ian Shepherdson, chief U.S. economist at High Frequency Economics, said in a research note.

A number of large U.S. employers announced layoffs this week, including Dow Chemical Co., 3M Co., Anheuser-Busch InBev, National Public Radio and the National Football League.

Oil prices edge up in Asia ahead of OPEC meeting

KUALA LUMPUR, Malaysia (AP)—Oil prices edged slightly higher Thursday in Asia with investors hoping for a significant OPEC production cut next week to boost the market.

Light, sweet crude for January delivery was up 27 cents to \$43.79 a barrel in electronic trading on the New York Mercantile Exchange by midday in Singapore. The contract rose 3.4 percent, or \$1.45, overnight to settle at \$43.52.

"The market is trading sideways right now. It's the year-end and many traders don't want to take risks. Sentiment is still bearish. A lot will depend on the OPEC meeting next week," said Clarence Chu, trader at Hudson Capital Energy in Singapore.

The Organization of Petroleum Exporting Countries, which accounts for about 40 percent of global crude supply,

has signaled it plans to reduce output quotas at a meeting Dec. 17 in Algeria.

Many analysts expect production cuts of as much as 2 million barrels a day, which would match the combined reductions of two previous output cuts earlier this year.

Victor Shum, energy analyst at consultancy Purvin & Gertz in Singapore, said indications from Saudi Arabia—the biggest oil producer in OPEC—that it would cut production going into January boosted hopes of a significant output reduction by OPEC of more than 2 million barrels a day.

Russia's plan to coordinate production levels with other non-OPEC producers also supported prices, he said. Energy Minister Sergey Shmatko said Russia would soon make an announcement of its intentions with OPEC.

BUD LIGHT

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FEMALE MMA MATCH:

JEN "SALBAHE" SAMBILE VS TARA "TARANTULA" NAMAULEG

ALSO FIGHTING

JASON "THE RUSH" TARKONG	VS	ROBERT "PITBULL" PALACIOS
"KILL" BILL SAURES	VS	TON "XCALIBUR" NEKAIFES
SYL "THE DEAL" TEREGEYO	VS	JOHN "THE JACKHAMMER" BORJA
GIOVANNI "PALAXI" SABLAN	VS	BRIAN "THE SHOTGUN" HOWARD
FASI "QUICKDRAW" JESSE	VS	JOE CABRERA
NATE "THE TERRIBLE" FLORES	VS	LEO "THE ASSASIN" CING
DERICK "PINCHI" RANGAMAR	VS	"BADD" BRAD PALACIOS
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MIR vs. NOGUEIRA

Nation

Illinois governor ignores Obama's call to resign

CHICAGO (AP)—His career in shreds, Illinois Gov. Rod Blagojevich clung defiantly to power Wednesday, ignoring a call to step down from President-elect Barack Obama and a warning that Senate Democrats will not let him appoint a new senator from the state. “Everyone is calling for his head,” said Barbara Flynn Currie, a leader in the Illinois Senate and, like the governor, a Democrat.

One day after Blagojevich's arrest, fellow Illinois politicians sought to avoid the taint of scandal-by-association.

Rep. Jesse Jackson Jr. said at a news conference in Washington that he was Senate Candidate 5 in the government's criminal complaint—a man Blagojevich was secretly recorded as saying might be willing to pay money to gain appointment to Obama's vacant Senate seat. Jackson said



AP

Illinois Gov. Rod Blagojevich, center, leaves his home through a back alley Wednesday, Dec. 10, 2008, a day after he was arrested on federal corruption charges.

he had been assured by prosecutors he was not a target of the investigation, and he emphatically said he had not engaged “whatsoever in any wrongdoing.”

Other Democrats in Washington edged away from calls for a

special election to fill Obama's place in the Senate, hoping that Lt. Gov. Pat Quinn would soon become governor and fill the vacancy on his own. That would assure the party of holding the seat, and on a far faster timetable than

any balloting would allow.

Ensnared in his downtown office, Blagojevich gave no sign he was contemplating resigning, and dispatched his spokeswoman, Kelley Quinn, to say it was “business as usual” in his 16th-floor suite, situated a few blocks from Obama's transition headquarters.

“At the end of the day, the top priority for our office is to serve the people, and we have not lost sight of that, nor will we lose sight of that,” Quinn said. One day earlier, federal prosecutors released a thick document that included excerpts of wire-tapped conversations in which the governor allegedly schemed to enrich himself by offering to sell Obama's Senate seat for campaign cash or a lucrative job inside or outside government.

Blagojevich, whose 52nd birthday was Wednesday, is charged with conspiracy and solicitation

to commit bribery, punishable by up to 20 years in prison and 10 years, respectively.

More than 24 hours after the arrest, Obama joined other prominent Democrats from his state in calling for Blagojevich's resignation.

“The president-elect agrees with Lt. Gov. Quinn and many others that under the current circumstances it is difficult for the governor to effectively do his job and serve the people of Illinois,” Obama spokesman Robert Gibbs said in response to questions from The Associated Press. Asked whether Obama supports a special election, Gibbs said Obama believes the Illinois General Assembly should consider how to fill the Senate seat and “put in place a process to select a new senator that will have the trust and confidence of the people of Illinois.”

Senators urge swift probe of jet fighter crash

SAN DIEGO (AP)—California Sens. Dianne Feinstein and Barbara Boxer joined the call for the Marine Corps to review its entire fleet of F/A18-D Hornet jets for possible problems after one of the jets crashed into a home and killed two young girls, their mother and their grandmother.

In a joint letter Wednesday, the two senators asked Gen. James Conway, Marines commandant, to quickly complete the investigation of Monday's crash and make the results public.

“We can all agree that in urban areas like San Diego County, where the military and civilian populations closely coexist, it is absolutely vital that all precautionary steps are taken to ensure the safety of both our civilian and military residents,” the letter read.

Marine spokesman Maj. David Nevers said authorities would thoroughly investigate the cause of the crash but gave no indication of plans for a broader probe of the fleet's 635 Hornet jets.

“While there is no reason to suspect a systemic engine-related problem that might affect the entire fleet of F/A-18s, safety is always of paramount concern,” Nevers said. “If the investigation were to point to a wider problem, we would act swiftly to address it.”

Officials: Obama chooses energy, enviro posts

WASHINGTON (AP)—President-elect Barack Obama intends to round out his environmental and natural resources team with a Nobel Prize-winning physicist and three former Environmental Protection Agency officials from the Clinton administration.

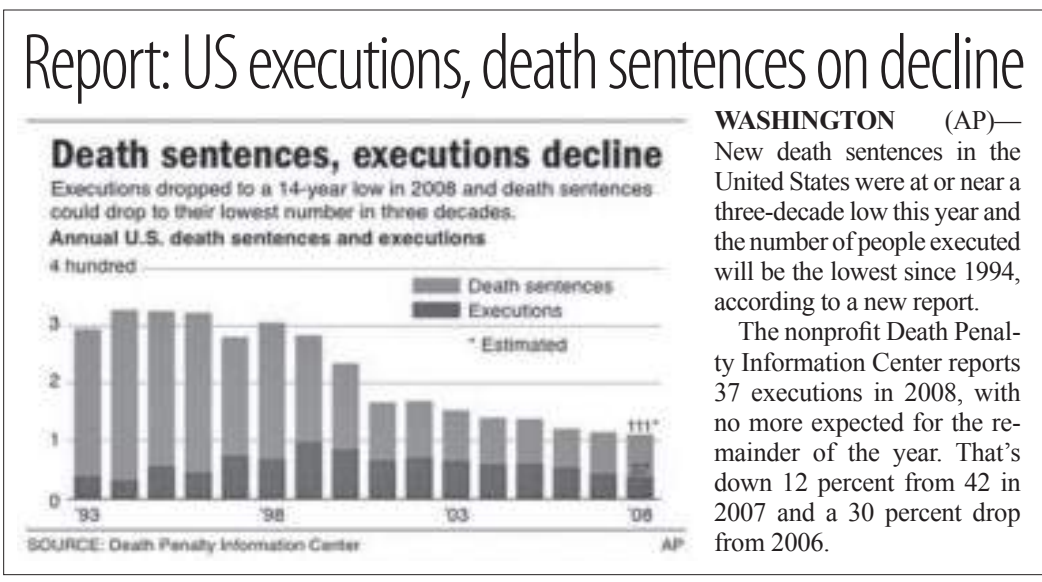
The president-elect has selected Steven Chu for energy secretary, Lisa Jackson for EPA administrator, Carol Browner as his energy “czar,” and Nancy Sutley to lead the White House Council on Environmental Quality, Democratic officials with knowledge of the decisions said Wednesday.

Obama plans to name the four

to the posts in the coming weeks, barring unforeseen developments. Still unclear is whom Obama will tap for interior secretary.

Officials close to the transition said support for John Berry, the director of the National Zoo and a former assistant secretary at the Interior Department, was growing. But these officials also said Arizona Rep. Raul Grijalva and California Rep. Mike Thompson were still in the running.

The Democratic officials who disclosed the selections spoke on the condition of anonymity because they were not authorized to reveal names that have not been made public.



WASHINGTON (AP)—New death sentences in the United States were at or near a three-decade low this year and the number of people executed will be the lowest since 1994, according to a new report.

The nonprofit Death Penalty Information Center reports 37 executions in 2008, with no more expected for the remainder of the year. That's down 12 percent from 42 in 2007 and a 30 percent drop from 2006.

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**NOTICE OF SALE
UNDER POWER OF SALE
IN DEED OF TRUST**

JUAN F. BARCINAS and BARBARA D.LC. EVANGELISTA (collectively "Trustor"), on or about June 14, 1983, gave and delivered to the Northern Marianas Housing Corporation ("Trustee"), acting on behalf of the United States Department of Agriculture, Rural Development Office ("USDA"), formerly known as Farmers Home Administration, United States of America ("FmHA"), a Deed of Trust upon certain real property hereinafter described, which Deed of Trust was recorded on June 16, 1983, under Document No. 17490 to secure payment of a Promissory Note of the Trustor to the Trustee, acting on behalf of the USDA, Rural Development Office.

The Deed of Trust and this Notice of Sale affect the property hereafter described:

LOT 001 T 52, AS SHOWN ON THE DIVISION OF LANDS AND SURVEY'S OFFICIAL CADASTRAL PLAT NUMBER 001 T 00, DATED AUGUST 14, 1969, AND CONTAINING AN AREA OF 1,486 SQUARE METERS.

The Trustor has defaulted on payment of the Note secured by the Deed of Trust, and by reason of said default, Trustee issued its Notice of Default and served to Trustor on September 12, 2008. More than thirty (30) days have passed since the default notice was served on Trustor and said default has not been cured.

Pursuant to 2 CMC § 4622(b)(2), NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that Trustee will, on **January 15, 2009**, at 10:00 a.m., at the office of the Northern Marianas Housing Corporation, Garapan, P.O. Box 500514, Saipan, MP 96950, under power of sale contained in the Deed of Trust, sell the above described parcel of real property at public auction to the highest qualified bidder, to satisfy the obligations secured by said Deed of Trust. The minimum bid offer shall be not less than **\$82,930.00**. Sealed bids will be opened at the auction and those present will be given the opportunity to submit an additional bid, thereby, outbidding the highest sealed bid amount received by NMHC and opened on the date of the auction.

Sealed bids must be addressed to Ms. Merced M. Tomokane, Acting Chairperson of the Board, Northern Marianas Housing Corporation, P.O. Box 500514, Saipan, MP 96950 and must also be received no later than **January 14, 2009, at 4:00 p.m.** **All bids received from outside the Commonwealth must be received no later than January 14, 2009 at 4:00 p.m. Untimely sealed bids will be rejected.**

The sale shall be without warranty as to the title or interest to be conveyed or as to the property under the Deed of Trust, other than that the Trustee is the lawful holder of such Deed of Trust. The purchase price shall be payable by cash, certified check or cashier's check to NMHC and shall be paid within 72 hours from time of sale.

Trustee reserves the right to reject any and all bids and to cancel or extend the date, time and place for sale of such property. Any prospective buyer must be a person authorized by the Constitution and laws of the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands to hold title to real property in the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands.

The further right is reserved, in the absence of satisfactory bids for the outright sale of the said parcel of real property to a qualified buyer, to offer such property at the same time and place, or at a later time, for long-term lease to any person on the usual terms and conditions for long term leases of real property offered by the Trustee to the highest bidder for such lease. The minimum bid amount of **\$82,930.00** shall also apply with lump sum payment for the term of the lease.

The lease shall be without warranty as to the title or interest to be conveyed or as to the property under the Deed of Trust, other than that the Trustee is the lawful holder of such Deed of Trust. The lease price shall be payable by cash, certified check or cashier's check to NMHC and shall be paid within 72 hours from time of sale.

Dated this 10th day of December 2008.

By: _____/s/
JOSHUA T. SASAMOTO
Corporate Director

Inquiries may be directed to Mr. Joshua T. Sasamoto, Corporate Director, at 234-6866/9447 for more information.

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**NOTICE OF SALE
UNDER POWER OF SALE
IN DEED OF TRUST**

CELINA M. SETEFANO and VILIAMI S. SETEFANO (collectively "Trustor"), on or about August 2, 1983, gave and delivered to the Northern Marianas Housing Corporation ("Trustee"), acting on behalf of the United States Department of Agriculture, Rural Development Office ("USDA"), formerly known as Farmers Home Administration, United States of America ("FmHA"), a Deed of Trust upon certain real property hereinafter described, which Deed of Trust was recorded on August 3, 1983, under Document No. 17659 to secure payment of a Promissory Note of the Trustor to the Trustee, acting on behalf of the USDA, Rural Development Office.

The Deed of Trust and this Notice of Sale affect the property hereafter described:

LOT NO. 002 F 67, CONTAINING AN AREA OF 1,230 SQUARE METERS, MORE OR LESS, AS MORE PARTICULARLY DESCRIBED ON DRAWING/CADASTRAL PLAT NUMBER 002 F 00, THE ORIGINAL OF WHICH WAS REGISTERED WITH THE LAND REGISTRY AS DOCUMENT NUMBER 691, ON THE 1ST DAY OF MARCH, 1971.

The Trustor has defaulted on payment of the Note secured by the Deed of Trust, and by reason of said default, Trustee issued its Notice of Default and served to Trustor on September 12, 2008. More than thirty (30) days have passed since the default notice was served on Trustor and said default has not been cured.

Pursuant to 2 CMC § 4622(b)(2), NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that Trustee will, on **January 15, 2009**, at 10:00 a.m., at the office of the Northern Marianas Housing Corporation, Garapan, P.O. Box 500514, Saipan, MP 96950, under power of sale contained in the Deed of Trust, sell the above described parcel of real property at public auction to the highest qualified bidder, to satisfy the obligations secured by said Deed of Trust. The minimum bid offer shall be not less than **\$43,730.00**. Sealed bids will be opened at the auction and those present will be given the opportunity to submit an additional bid, thereby, outbidding the highest sealed bid amount received by NMHC and opened on the date of the auction.

Sealed bids must be addressed to Ms. Merced M. Tomokane, Acting Chairperson of the Board, Northern Marianas Housing Corporation, P.O. Box 500514, Saipan, MP 96950 and must also be received no later than **January 14, 2009, at 4:00 p.m.** **All bids received from outside the Commonwealth must be received no later than January 14, 2009 at 4:00 p.m. Untimely sealed bids will be rejected.**

The sale shall be without warranty as to the title or interest to be conveyed or as to the property under the Deed of Trust, other than that the Trustee is the lawful holder of such Deed of Trust. The purchase price shall be payable by cash, certified check or cashier's check to NMHC and shall be paid within 72 hours from time of sale.

Trustee reserves the right to reject any and all bids and to cancel or extend the date, time and place for sale of such property. Any prospective buyer must be a person authorized by the Constitution and laws of the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands to hold title to real property in the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands.

The further right is reserved, in the absence of satisfactory bids for the outright sale of the said parcel of real property to a qualified buyer, to offer such property at the same time and place, or at a later time, for long-term lease to any person on the usual terms and conditions for long term leases of real property offered by the Trustee to the highest bidder for such lease. The minimum bid amount of **\$43,730.00** shall also apply with lump sum payment for the term of the lease.

The lease shall be without warranty as to the title or interest to be conveyed or as to the property under the Deed of Trust, other than that the Trustee is the lawful holder of such Deed of Trust. The lease price shall be payable by cash, certified check or cashier's check to NMHC and shall be paid within 72 hours from time of sale.

Dated this 10th day of December 2008.

By: _____/s/
JOSHUA T. SASAMOTO
Corporate Director

Inquiries may be directed to Mr. Joshua T. Sasamoto, Corporate Director, at 234-6866/9447 for more information.

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**NOTICE OF SALE
UNDER POWER OF SALE
IN DEED OF TRUST**

BRADLEY JOHN TOVES ATALIG aka LARRY JOHN TOVES ATALIG and NANETTE E. ATALIG (collectively "Trustor"), on or about September 20, 2001, gave and delivered to the Northern Marianas Housing Corporation ("Trustee"), acting on behalf of the United States Department of Agriculture, Rural Development Office ("USDA"), formerly known as Farmers Home Administration, United States of America ("FmHA"), a Deed of Trust upon certain real property hereinafter described, which Deed of Trust was recorded on October 2, 2001, under Document No. 01-2166 to secure payment of a Promissory Note of the Trustor to the Trustee, acting on behalf of the USDA, Rural Development Office.

The Deed of Trust and this Notice of Sale affect the property hereafter described:

LOT NO. 347 R 96, CONTAINING AN AREA OF 827 SQUARE METERS, MORE OR LESS, AS SHOWN ON THE DIVISION OF LANDS AND SURVEY'S OFFICIAL CADASTRAL PLAT NUMBER 347 R 07, DATED DECEMBER 9, 1993, COMMONWEALTH RECORDER'S FILE NO. 93-4282, DATED DECEMBER 9, 1993, THE DESCRIPTION THEREIN BEING INCORPORATED HEREIN BY REFERENCE.

The Trustor has defaulted on payment of the Note secured by the Deed of Trust, and by reason of said default, Trustee issued its Notice of Default and served to Trustor on September 12, 2008. More than thirty (30) days have passed since the default notice was served on Trustor and said default has not been cured.

Pursuant to 2 CMC § 4622(b)(2), NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that Trustee will, on **January 15, 2009**, at 10:00 a.m., at the office of the Northern Marianas Housing Corporation, Garapan, P.O. Box 500514, Saipan, MP 96950, under power of sale contained in the Deed of Trust, sell the above described parcel of real property at public auction to the highest qualified bidder, to satisfy the obligations secured by said Deed of Trust. The minimum bid offer shall be not less than **\$26,230.00**. Sealed bids will be opened at the auction and those present will be given the opportunity to submit an additional bid, thereby, outbidding the highest sealed bid amount received by NMHC and opened on the date of the auction.

Sealed bids must be addressed to Ms. Merced M. Tomokane, Acting Chairperson of the Board, Northern Marianas Housing Corporation, P.O. Box 500514, Saipan, MP 96950 and must also be received no later than **January 14, 2009, at 4:00 p.m.** **All bids received from outside the Commonwealth must be received no later than January 14, 2009 at 4:00 p.m. Untimely sealed bids will be rejected.**

The sale shall be without warranty as to the title or interest to be conveyed or as to the property under the Deed of Trust, other than that the Trustee is the lawful holder of such Deed of Trust. The purchase price shall be payable by cash, certified check or cashier's check to NMHC and shall be paid within 72 hours from time of sale.

Trustee reserves the right to reject any and all bids and to cancel or extend the date, time and place for sale of such property. Any prospective buyer must be a person authorized by the Constitution and laws of the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands to hold title to real property in the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands.

The further right is reserved, in the absence of satisfactory bids for the outright sale of the said parcel of real property to a qualified buyer, to offer such property at the same time and place, or at a later time, for long-term lease to any person on the usual terms and conditions for long term leases of real property offered by the Trustee to the highest bidder for such lease. The minimum bid amount of **\$26,230.00** shall also apply with lump sum payment for the term of the lease.

The lease shall be without warranty as to the title or interest to be conveyed or as to the property under the Deed of Trust, other than that the Trustee is the lawful holder of such Deed of Trust. The lease price shall be payable by cash, certified check or cashier's check to NMHC and shall be paid within 72 hours from time of sale.

Dated this 10th day of December 2008.

By: _____/s/
JOSHUA T. SASAMOTO
Corporate Director

Inquiries may be directed to Mr. Joshua T. Sasamoto, Corporate Director, at 234-6866/9447 for more information.

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9/11 families protest fairness of Gitmo trials

NEW YORK (AP)—Two dozen family members of Sept. 11 victims signed a letter Wednesday saying they don't believe in the fairness of the military trials of five men charged with orchestrating the terrorist attacks, and some suggested their opinions cost them attendance at the proceedings.

While the family members

who attended this week's proceedings at Guantanamo Bay Naval Base in Cuba expressed support for the tribunals, they also said "that many of us do not believe these military commissions to be fair, in accordance with American values, or capable of achieving the justice that 9/11 family members and all Americans

deserve," according to the letter released by the American Civil Liberties Union.

Robin Theurkauf, whose husband was killed at the World Trade Center, said she wanted to attend the proceedings but was denied a spot in a lottery for family members.

"I testified for the defense in the (Zacarias) Moussaoui trial,"

Theurkauf said, referring to the convicted Sept. 11 conspirator. "I think I was skipped over because of that."

Lorie Van Auken, whose husband Kenneth was killed at the trade center, also wanted to attend the hearings. She has been a prominent critic of the Guantanamo proceedings, accusing the government of using torture

to coerce confessions.

"It could be that they didn't want the critical voices to be heard," Van Auken said.

Navy Cmdr. Jeffrey Gordon, a Pentagon spokesman, said Wednesday that five family members from a pool of 113 people were chosen randomly through a computer program to attend the proceedings.

Their selection was "based on what came through the computer," not their opinions, he said, noting that each family member was allowed to bring one other person.

The victims' relatives were allowed to observe the war-crimes proceedings for the

first time Monday.

The five detainees, including alleged Sept. 11 mastermind Khalid Sheikh Mohammed, said they intended to abandon their defenses and confess to charges they orchestrated the 2001 terrorist attack.

Several family members said they were told they could watch this week's proceedings from remote video hookups at military facilities across the country, but they hadn't been accommodated.

Gordon said the military had made arrangements for families to view the actual trial, but this week's appearances were preliminary.

ACROSS THE NATION

Day to 'call in gay' finds few willing to strike

SAN FRANCISCO (AP)—A daylong work stoppage during which employees were encouraged to "call in gay" to express support for same-sex marriage drew spotty participation nationwide Wednesday, with some gay rights activists praising the concept but questioning its effect. In San Francisco's gay Castro district, residents and merchants said they endorsed the message behind "Day Without a Gay" but didn't think a work stoppage was practical given the poor economy and the strike's organization. "If we are going to make a huge impact and not be laughed at, then we have to take the time and make the time to communicate with all the parties. We could have shut down a lot of the hotels," said David Lang, a gymnastics coach. "In theory it's a great idea, but it's being done wrong and now that it's been done wrong, I don't think it will be done again." The protest, which a gay couple from West Hollywood organized through the Internet, was designed to demonstrate the economic clout of same-sex marriage supporters following the passage of voter-approved gay marriage bans in California, Arizona and Florida last month.

Chicago workers end sit-in at closed factory

CHICAGO (AP)—Jubilant workers, cheering and chanting "Yes We Can," celebrated outside a Chicago factory after approving a \$1.75 million agreement to end their six-day sit-in, which had become a nationwide symbol of the plight of labor. Republic Windows & Doors, union leaders and Bank of America reached the deal Wednesday evening. Workers carrying sleeping bags left the North Side factory within hours. About 200 of 240 laid-

off workers began their sit-in last week after Republic gave them just three days' notice the plant was closing. The workers had argued that Republic violated federal law because employees were not given 60 days' notice. They vowed to stay until they received assurances they would get severance and accrued vacation pay. Each former Republic employee will get eight weeks' salary, all accrued vacation pay and two months' paid health care, said U.S. Rep. Luis Gutierrez, who helped broker the deal. He said it works out to about \$7,000 apiece.

Violent storms damage dozens of homes across South

JACKSON, Miss. (AP)—A night of unseasonably warm weather generated torrential rains and tornadoes that damaged two schools and dozens of homes in the South, where snow began to fall in some areas Wednesday after temperatures dropped. At least one person was injured in south Mississippi when a car on Interstate 59 struck a tree downed by the wave of storms that raked the region starting Tuesday night, authorities said. At least 39 houses and mobile homes were damaged in Mississippi as well as three businesses. Classes were canceled when an apparent tornado ripped off part of the roof of an elementary school in Walker County, Ala., northwest of Birmingham. The storm also damaged more than a dozen homes there. There were reports of damaged homes and trees on roadways across Mississippi and reports of large hail.


Police: Ark. school shooter applied for gun permit

LITTLE ROCK, Ark. (AP)—A man who as a child helped gun down four middle

school students and a teacher applied for a concealed-carry permit under a different name but was denied, police said Wednesday. Andrew Golden, 22, applied for the permit under the name of Drew Grant, listing a home address in Evening Shade—only 55 miles from Jonesboro, where he and classmate Mitchell Johnson lured students into gunfire in 1998 during a fake fire drill, police spokesman Bill Sadler said. Golden changed his name after his release from prison last year. In a recent ruling, Craighead County Circuit Judge David Burnett barred lawyers from releasing Golden's new name or home address. Fingerprints provided with the concealed-carry permit matched those given by Golden at age 11 in the aftermath of the shooting, Sadler said.

State reports abuse in 2nd Minnesota nursing home

ST. PAUL, Minn. (AP)—An aide at a Minnesota nursing home was accused of tormenting six residents sexually, physically and emotionally for months before being fired, according to a state health department report released Wednesday. It's the second recent investigation of nursing home abuse in the state. The report states that a female aide abused residents at Luther Haven Nursing Home in Montevideo for about six months before a nursing assistant told a supervisor in July what she had seen. The aide's name was not disclosed. The case echoes another in Albert Lea in southern Minnesota, where six nursing assistants allegedly spit into the mouths of residents with dementia, poked their breasts and touched their genitals. Two female aides face criminal abuse and assault charges; four others were charged as juveniles for not reporting the alleged abuse.




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NOTICE OF SALE
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IN DEED OF TRUST

CARMENT T. ANDON and SAMUEL M. ANDON (collectively "Trustor"), on or about October 22, 2004, gave and delivered to the Northern Marianas Housing Corporation ("Trustee"), acting on behalf of the United States Department of Agriculture, Rural Development Office ("USDA"), formerly known as Farmers Home Administration, United States of America ("FmHA"), a Deed of Trust upon certain real property hereinafter described, which Deed of Trust was recorded on November 2, 2004, under Document No. 04-2544 to secure payment of a Promissory Note of the Trustor to the Trustee, acting on behalf of the USDA, Rural Development Office.

The Deed of Trust and this Notice of Sale affect the property hereafter described:

LOT NO. 011 G 308, CONTAINING AN AREA OF 797 SQUARE METERS, MORE OR LESS, AS SHOWN ON THE DIVISION OF LANDS AND SURVEY'S OFFICIAL CADASTRAL PLAT NUMBER 011 G 06, DATED DECEMBER 9, 1993, COMMONWEALTH RECORDER'S FILE NO. 93-4414, DATED DECEMBER 16, 1993, THE DESCRIPTION THEREIN BEING INCORPORATED HEREIN BY REFERENCE.

The Trustor has defaulted on payment of the Note secured by the Deed of Trust, and by reason of said default, Trustee issued its 2nd Notice of Default and served to Trustor on September 12, 2008. More than thirty (30) days have passed since the default notice was served on Trustor and said default has not been cured.

Pursuant to 2 CMC § 4622(b)(2), NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that Trustee will, on **January 15, 2009**, at 10:00 a.m., at the office of the Northern Marianas Housing Corporation, Garapan, P.O. Box 500514, Saipan, MP 96950, under power of sale contained in the Deed of Trust, sell the above described parcel of real property at public auction to the highest qualified bidder, to satisfy the obligations secured by said Deed of Trust. The minimum bid offer shall be not less than **\$43,730.00**. Sealed bids will be opened at the auction and those present will be given the opportunity to submit an additional bid, thereby, outbidding the highest sealed bid amount received by NMHC and opened on the date of the auction.

Sealed bids must be addressed to Ms. Merced M. Tomokane, Acting Chairperson of the Board, Northern Marianas Housing Corporation, P.O. Box 500514, Saipan, MP 96950 and must also be received no later than **January 14, 2009, at 4:00 p.m.** **All bids received from outside the Commonwealth must be received no later than January 14, 2009 at 4:00 p.m. Untimely sealed bids will be rejected.**

The sale shall be without warranty as to the title or interest to be conveyed or as to the property under the Deed of Trust, other than that the Trustee is the lawful holder of such Deed of Trust. The purchase price shall be payable by cash, certified check or cashier's check to NMHC and shall be paid within 72 hours from time of sale.

Trustee reserves the right to reject any and all bids and to cancel or extend the date, time and place for sale of such property. Any prospective buyer must be a person authorized by the Constitution and laws of the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands to hold title to real property in the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands.

The further right is reserved, in the absence of satisfactory bids for the outright sale of the said parcel of real property to a qualified buyer, to offer such property at the same time and place, or at a later time, for long-term lease to any person on the usual terms and conditions for long term leases of real property offered by the Trustee to the highest bidder for such lease. The minimum bid amount of **\$43,730.00** shall also apply with lump sum payment for the term of the lease.


The lease shall be without warranty as to the title or interest to be conveyed or as to the property under the Deed of Trust, other than that the Trustee is the lawful holder of such Deed of Trust. The lease price shall be payable by cash, certified check or cashier's check to NMHC and shall be paid within 72 hours from time of sale.

Dated this 10th day of December 2008.

By: _____/s/
JOSHUA T. SASAMOTO
Corporate Director

Inquiries may be directed to Mr. Joshua T. Sasamoto, Corporate Director, at 234-6866/9447 for more information.

*****NMHC is an equal employment and fair housing public agency*****




Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands

NORTHERN MARIANAS HOUSING CORPORATION

Tel. (670) 234-6866, 234-9447, 234-7689, 234-7670 • Fax. (670) 234-9021

Email: nmhc@nmhc.gov.mp • Website: http://www.nmhc.gov.mp



NOTICE OF SALE
UNDER POWER OF SALE
IN DEED OF TRUST

MARINA A. BAUTISTA and LORETO L. BAUTISTA (collectively "Trustor"), on or about November 15, 1999, gave and delivered to the Northern Marianas Housing Corporation ("Trustee"), acting on behalf of the United States Department of Agriculture, Rural Development Office ("USDA"), formerly known as Farmers Home Administration, United States of America ("FmHA"), a Deed of Trust upon certain real property hereinafter described, which Deed of Trust was recorded on November 15, 1999, under Document No. 99-2777 to secure payment of a Promissory Note of the Trustor to the Trustee, acting on behalf of the USDA, Rural Development Office.

The Deed of Trust and this Notice of Sale affect the property hereafter described:

LOT NO. 011 G 972, CONTAINING AN AREA OF 781 SQUARE METERS, MORE OR LESS, AS SHOWN ON THE DIVISION OF LANDS AND SURVEY'S OFFICIAL CADASTRAL PLAT NUMBER 011 G 18, DATED DECEMBER 3, 1993, COMMONWEALTH RECORDER'S FILE NO. 93-4286, DATED DECEMBER 9, 1993, THE DESCRIPTION THEREIN BEING INCORPORATED HEREIN BY REFERENCE.

The Trustor has defaulted on payment of the Note secured by the Deed of Trust, and by reason of said default, Trustee issued its Notice of Default and served to Trustor on September 12, 2008. More than thirty (30) days have passed since the default notice was served on Trustor and said default has not been cured.

Pursuant to 2 CMC § 4622(b)(2), NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that Trustee will, on **January 15, 2009**, at 10:00 a.m., at the office of the Northern Marianas Housing Corporation, Garapan, P.O. Box 500514, Saipan, MP 96950, under power of sale contained in the Deed of Trust, sell the above described parcel of real property at public auction to the highest qualified bidder, to satisfy the obligations secured by said Deed of Trust. The minimum bid offer shall be not less than **\$50,730.00**. Sealed bids will be opened at the auction and those present will be given the opportunity to submit an additional bid, thereby, outbidding the highest sealed bid amount received by NMHC and opened on the date of the auction.

Sealed bids must be addressed to Ms. Merced M. Tomokane, Acting Chairperson of the Board, Northern Marianas Housing Corporation, P.O. Box 500514, Saipan, MP 96950 and must also be received no later than **January 14, 2009, at 4:00 p.m.** **All bids received from outside the Commonwealth must be received no later than January 14, 2009 at 4:00 p.m. Untimely sealed bids will be rejected.**

The sale shall be without warranty as to the title or interest to be conveyed or as to the property under the Deed of Trust, other than that the Trustee is the lawful holder of such Deed of Trust. The purchase price shall be payable by cash, certified check or cashier's check to NMHC and shall be paid within 72 hours from time of sale.

Trustee reserves the right to reject any and all bids and to cancel or extend the date, time and place for sale of such property. Any prospective buyer must be a person authorized by the Constitution and laws of the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands to hold title to real property in the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands.

The further right is reserved, in the absence of satisfactory bids for the outright sale of the said parcel of real property to a qualified buyer, to offer such property at the same time and place, or at a later time, for long-term lease to any person on the usual terms and conditions for long term leases of real property offered by the Trustee to the highest bidder for such lease. The minimum bid amount of **\$50,730.00** shall also apply with lump sum payment for the term of the lease.


The lease shall be without warranty as to the title or interest to be conveyed or as to the property under the Deed of Trust, other than that the Trustee is the lawful holder of such Deed of Trust. The lease price shall be payable by cash, certified check or cashier's check to NMHC and shall be paid within 72 hours from time of sale.

Dated this 10th day of December 2008.

By: _____/s/
JOSHUA T. SASAMOTO
Corporate Director

Inquiries may be directed to Mr. Joshua T. Sasamoto, Corporate Director, at 234-6866/9447 for more information.

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NOTICE OF SALE
UNDER POWER OF SALE
IN DEED OF TRUST

BLAS T. MAGOFNA ("Trustor"), on or about January 12, 1995, gave and delivered to the Northern Marianas Housing Corporation ("Trustee"), acting on behalf of the United States Department of Agriculture, Rural Development Office ("USDA"), formerly known as Farmers Home Administration, United States of America ("FmHA"), a Deed of Trust upon certain real property hereinafter described, which Deed of Trust was recorded on January 20, 1995, under Document No. 95-143 to secure payment of a Promissory Note of the Trustor to the Trustee, acting on behalf of the USDA, Rural Development Office.

The Deed of Trust and this Notice of Sale affect the property hereafter described:

LOT NO. 002 B 12, CONTAINING AN AREA OF 737 SQUARE METERS, MORE OR LESS, AS SHOWN ON THE DIVISION OF LANDS AND SURVEY'S OFFICIAL CADASTRAL PLAT NUMBER 5014/94, DATED FEBRUARY 7, 1994, COMMONWEALTH RECORDER'S FILE NO. 94-396, DATED FEBRUARY 10, 1994, THE DESCRIPTION THEREIN BEING INCORPORATED HEREIN BY REFERENCE.

The Trustor has defaulted on payment of the Note secured by the Deed of Trust, and by reason of said default, Trustee issued its Notice of Default and served to Trustor on September 12, 2008. More than thirty (30) days have passed since the default notice was served on Trustor and said default has not been cured.

Pursuant to 2 CMC § 4622(b)(2), NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that Trustee will, on **January 15, 2009**, at 10:00 a.m., at the office of the Northern Marianas Housing Corporation, Garapan, P.O. Box 500514, Saipan, MP 96950, under power of sale contained in the Deed of Trust, sell the above described parcel of real property at public auction to the highest qualified bidder, to satisfy the obligations secured by said Deed of Trust. The minimum bid offer shall be not less than **\$49,330.00**. Sealed bids will be opened at the auction and those present will be given the opportunity to submit an additional bid, thereby, outbidding the highest sealed bid amount received by NMHC and opened on the date of the auction.

Sealed bids must be addressed to Ms. Merced M. Tomokane, Acting Chairperson of the Board, Northern Marianas Housing Corporation, P.O. Box 500514, Saipan, MP 96950 and must also be received no later than **January 14, 2009, at 4:00 p.m.** **All bids received from outside the Commonwealth must be received no later than January 14, 2009 at 4:00 p.m. Untimely sealed bids will be rejected.**

The sale shall be without warranty as to the title or interest to be conveyed or as to the property under the Deed of Trust, other than that the Trustee is the lawful holder of such Deed of Trust. The purchase price shall be payable by cash, certified check or cashier's check to NMHC and shall be paid within 72 hours from time of sale.

Trustee reserves the right to reject any and all bids and to cancel or extend the date, time and place for sale of such property. Any prospective buyer must be a person authorized by the Constitution and laws of the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands to hold title to real property in the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands.

The further right is reserved, in the absence of satisfactory bids for the outright sale of the said parcel of real property to a qualified buyer, to offer such property at the same time and place, or at a later time, for long-term lease to any person on the usual terms and conditions for long term leases of real property offered by the Trustee to the highest bidder for such lease. The minimum bid amount of **\$49,330.00** shall also apply with lump sum payment for the term of the lease.

The lease shall be without warranty as to the title or interest to be conveyed or as to the property under the Deed of Trust, other than that the Trustee is the lawful holder of such Deed of Trust. The lease price shall be payable by cash, certified check or cashier's check to NMHC and shall be paid within 72 hours from time of sale.

Dated this 10th day of December 2008.

By: _____/s/
JOSHUA T. SASAMOTO
Corporate Director

Inquiries may be directed to Mr. Joshua T. Sasamoto, Corporate Director, at 234-6866/9447 for more information.

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Asia

India unveils security overhaul

NEW DELHI (AP)—India announced a massive overhaul of its security and intelligence agencies Thursday in the wake of the Mumbai terror attacks that left 171 dead and provoked a public outcry over the government's response.

Among the new measures, the government will move to create a national investigative agency, beef up coastal security forces, better train local police and strengthen anti-terror laws, said Home Minister Palaniappan Chidambaram, the country's top law enforcement official.

"Given the nature of the threat, we can't go back to business as usual," Chidambaram said in a speech to India's Parliament, adding he would "take certain hard decisions to prepare the country and people to face the challenge of terrorism."

The shake-up represents the government's first detailed response to widespread public anger over security and intelligence failures in the attacks. Chidambaram has previously apologized for government "lapses" in the assault.

Meanwhile, police in Mumbai backed off of plans to produce the only surviving attacker, Mohammed Ajmal Kasab, in court Thursday for a routine hearing, citing security concerns.

Instead, a magistrate came to police headquarters and granted authorities permission to hold Kasab for a further two weeks, public prosecutor Eknath Dhamal said.

A security cordon was thrown around the downtown Mumbai building where Kasab was being held, and journalists were kept

UN: Pakistan charity front for terrorists

UNITED NATIONS (AP)—A U.N. Security Council panel declared Wednesday that a Pakistan-based charity is a front group for the terrorist organization blamed in the attacks on Mumbai that killed 171 people.

In a move sought by India and the U.S., the panel said the charity Jamaat-ud-Dawa is a front for the Pakistani militant group Lashkar-e-Taiba and now subject to U.N. sanctions on terrorist organizations. It also approved the designation of four suspected plotters of the Mumbai attacks as terrorists subject to sanctions.

The U.N. identified all four individuals as leaders of Lashkar. They include Zaki-ur-Rehman Lakhvi, operations chief and the alleged mastermind of the Mumbai siege whose arrest was announced Wednesday. The others are Hafiz Mohammed Saeed, the leader of the charity; Haji Muhammad Ashraf, Lashkar's chief of finance; and Mahmoud Mohammad Ahmed Bahaziq, a financier with Lashkar.

Among the sanctions imposed on the group and the

four individuals by the Security Council's al-Qaida and Taliban Sanctions Committee were an asset freeze, travel ban and arms embargo on the individuals. The panel is authorized to make such decisions on behalf of the Security Council.

India had pressed the Security Council for sanctions against the charity on Tuesday, contending along with the U.S. that Jamaat-ud-Dawa is a front for Lashkar.

Since 2005, that sanctions committee—a powerful tool of the U.N.'s powerhouse 15-nation Security Council—has considered Lashkar to be a terrorist organization affiliated with al-Qaida. The United States and European Union also have sanctioned the group.

By agreeing that Jamaat-ud-Dawa is essentially an alias for Lashkar, the U.N. panel has significantly added to India's pressure for Pakistan's civilian government to prove that it is cracking down on militant groups and pursuing extremists blamed for last month's siege of India's commercial capital.

200 yards (meters) away, their view blocked by a police van.

Kasab, who was wounded and captured by police in the first hours of the Nov. 26 attack, has been repeatedly interrogated by authorities and reportedly offered key details about the planning of the assault and those

responsible for it.

Many lawyers across the city, horrified by the attacks, have said they would not represent Kasab. On Thursday, Dinesh Mota, a lawyer asked by the court to defend Kasab, said he would refuse.

"I will not represent him, it is against all human values," he said.

tiator, Christopher Hill, said North Korea was not compromising during talks Wednesday. "We did not make any progress today. Not at all," Hill told reporters after meetings with chief envoys from North and South Korea, China, Japan and Russia. "Most delegations were prepared to work on the Chinese text," Hill said. "There was a consensus on how to move forward. That consensus was not shared by the DPRK." The DPRK is the acronym for North Korea's formal name, the Democratic People's Republic of Korea.

RP pigs found with Ebola Reston, a virus not harmful to humans, officials say

MANILA, Philippines (AP)—Pigs in three Philippine hog farms have been found infected with the Ebola Reston virus, a strain not harmful to humans, officials said Thursday. The affected farms in three northern Philippine provinces have been quarantined and farm and slaughterhouse workers who might have been exposed all tested negative for Ebola Reston, Agriculture Secretary Arthur Yap said in a statement. As a precaution, he said all pork exports have been suspended until further notice. "We advise the public that it is safe to eat pork provided that the pork is properly handled and thoroughly cooked," Health Secretary Francisco Duque said in a statement. Lyndon Lee-Suy, a health department disease control manager, said in a telephone interview that studies show the virus is a "low level" pathogen. "Humans can get the virus, but it does not cause illness," she said.

World



In this photo taken Wednesday, April 30, 2008, the MS Columbus cruise ship is seen passing through the Suez canal in Ismailia, Egypt. AP

US leads UN push to hunt Somali pirates

UNITED NATIONS (AP)—The United States sought international authorization Wednesday to hunt Somali pirates on land with the cooperation of Somalia's weak U.N.-backed government in one of the Bush administration's last major foreign policy initiatives.

The U.S. circulated a draft United Nations Security Council resolution proposing that all nations and regional groups co-operating with Somalia's government in the fight against piracy and armed robbery "may take all necessary measures ashore in Somalia," including

its airspace.

If the U.S. military gets involved, it would mark a dramatic turnabout from the U.S. experience in Somalia in 1992-1993 that culminated in a deadly military clash in Mogadishu followed by a humiliating withdrawal of American forces.

Piracy off Somalia has intensified in recent months, with more attacks against a wider range of targets. There was an unsuccessful assault on a cruise ship in the Gulf of Aden, which links the Mediterranean Sea, the Suez Canal and the Red Sea to the Indian Ocean. In September, pi-

rates seized a Ukrainian freighter loaded with 33 battle tanks and on Nov. 15 they seized a Saudi oil tanker carrying \$100 million worth of crude.

The U.S. resolution is to be presented at a session on Somalia Tuesday with Secretary of State Condoleezza Rice.

It proposes that for a year, nations "may take all necessary measures ashore in Somalia, including in its airspace, to interdict those who are using Somali territory to plan, facilitate or undertake acts of piracy and armed robbery at sea and to otherwise prevent those activities."

Greek government defends handling of riots

ATHENS, Greece (AP)—Five days of rioting that saw bands of youths marauding through the streets has shocked a generally tolerant Greek public and led many to question how the situation was allowed to degenerate. The police and government are now under intense scrutiny, despite saying they went out of their way to avoid bloodshed.

The government, which also faced a crippling general strike Wednesday, insists it has acted

in the public's best interests, safeguarding lives over property amid an unprecedented explosion of rage sparked by the shooting death by police of a 15-year-old in one of Athens' often volatile neighborhoods.

The two officers involved in the shooting were quickly arrested, charged and ordered jailed.

The government sought to show it was trying to act with restraint when it came to deal-

ing with the protesters.

"Human life is top priority. Property comes next," Interior Minister Prokypis Pavlopoulos said during the worst of the rioting Monday, as masked youths overturned cars, erected blazing barricades across city streets and smashed stores at will.

Prime Minister Costas Karamanlis, whose conservatives are hanging with a single seat majority in the 300-member Parliament, is under threat.

ASIAN BRIEFS

UN awards Benazir Bhutto human rights prize

UNITED NATIONS (AP)—The son of slain Pakistani former-Prime Minister Benazir Bhutto defended his mother's human rights record Wednesday after accepting a posthumous U.N. prize in her honor. Bilawal Bhutto Zardari accepted the United Nations Prize in the Field of Human Rights reading a prescient quotation from the autobiography his mother had written before her Dec. 2007 assassination. In the book she said she realized returning to her homeland could cost her life, but she did so because "democracy in Pakistan is not just important for Pakistanis it is important for the entire world." But at a press conference following the ceremony, Zardari had to defend his mother's human rights record during her two terms as Prime Minister from 1998-1999 and 1993-1996, during which time Amnesty International documented hundreds extra-judicial killings by government forces and the jailing of human right defenders, including journalists.

US envoy says NKorea nuclear talks hit stalemate

BEIJING (AP)—International talks on North Korea's nuclear program stalled on Wednesday, envoys said, after the communist regime snubbed a Chinese proposal outlining how monitors could verify its past atomic activities. North Korea was refusing to allow outside inspectors take samples from its main nuclear complex at Yongbyon—a key method of checking whether the country was truthful in its accounting of its nuclear programs. China offered a proposal on the tricky issue but the top U.S. nego-

WORLD BRIEFS

Gitmo commander predicts prison won't close soon

GUANTANAMO BAY NAVAL BASE, Cuba (AP)—Guantanamo's commander believes that the prison on this base won't close anytime soon after President-elect Barack Obama takes office. Rear Adm. David Thomas said he expects "rigorous debate" in America before the 250 detainees are flown out, pouring cold water on speculation that the military's offshore prison might close within days after Obama is sworn in on Jan. 20. "The hard part, the important part to get ready is where you're going to put the detainees, and the legal process that you intend to use to continue any sort of prosecution or resolution of their cases," Thomas told reporters Tuesday night. "The easy part is taking them from JTF-Guantanamo and putting them on an airplane. The chances of the military completing another war-crimes trial at Guantanamo before Obama takes office were all but eliminated on Wednesday, however, as a judge suspended proceedings against a detainee whose case had been set for early January.

Countries agree on goals for new UN climate treaty

POZNAN, Poland (AP)—Delegates from nearly

190 countries agreed Wednesday on a series of goals to be included in a global warming treaty, but the U.N. conference failed to make a real commitment to reduce the amount of carbon emissions. Yvo de Boer, the top U.N. climate official, said the delegates had adopted a work plan to reach their goals over the next 12 months even though the statement re-affirmed similar aims to those agreed last year in Bali, Indonesia, and marked no real breakthrough. "We are now at the point where a lot has been resolved but a limited number of issues remain outstanding," de Boer told reporters. De Boer said in a statement they resolved to spell out specific emissions commitments for industrial countries, to raise large-scale funds to help poor countries adapt to their changing climate, and to create institutions to channel those funds. He acknowledged that a fully drafted treaty likely would not be completed by next December, but said a "policy framework" should be ready for ratification and should enter into force in 2013. More than 10,000 delegates and activists are working on a treaty to replace the Kyoto Protocol, which expires in 2012, and requires 37 industrial countries to cut emissions by an average 5 percent from 1990 levels.

Off the Wall

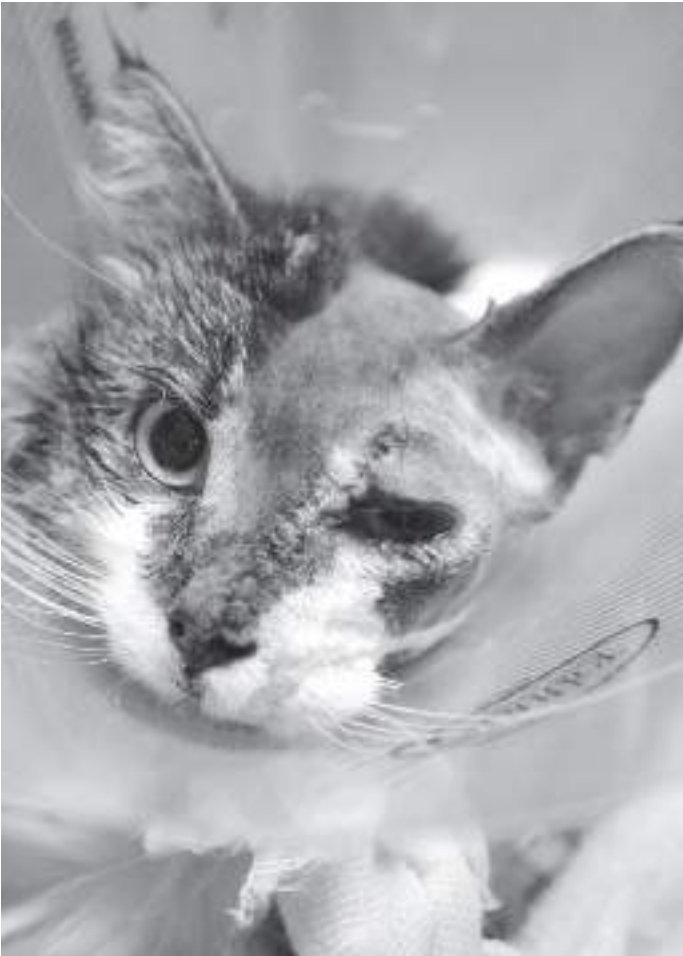
Vets fix feline’s face after ‘cat’-astrophe

BOSTON (AP)—Me-ouch! Veterinarians on Tuesday performed an unusual surgery to reattach the face of a cat they believe was injured by a car’s fan belt, probably because she tried to stay warm under the hood. Edgar, a 4-year-old long-haired feline, went missing from her home in Winthrop for three days last week. When she finally came home, her owner found her in her litter box—with part of her face dangling from her head. “When her owner saw her face,

she passed out,” said Elizabeth Kendrick, a surgical technician at Angell Animal Medical Center. The owner, who asked not to be identified, recovered from the shock and rushed Edgar to an animal hospital. Remarkably, Edgar suffered no major blood loss nor any permanent nerve damage from her accident. She just needed to have her facial skin stitched back on during an hour-long surgery, according to veterinary surgeon Michael Pavletic.

“And she should be fine after this,” Pavletic said. Besides the skin hanging from Edgar’s face, Edgar seemed normal, Kendrick said. “She was purring and sticking her head up so we could pet her,” Kendrick said. “She even tried to chew at her skin. I’d never seen anything like it.” Pavletic reattached Edgar’s face using about 35 stitches. She came through the surgery with no problems, though she looks as though someone punched her

in the eye. “She’ll need to take some medicine but I don’t anticipate her having any problems,” Pavletic said. Bonnie Beaver, a professor of small animal clinical services at Texas A&M University, said such animal injuries are extremely rare since cats are usually killed instantly from car fan belts. “She may have problems later,” Beaver said, “but the cat was saying, ‘I may have lost this life but, by golly, I have eight more.’”



AP
Edgar, a 4-year-old long-haired female cat, is seen with stitches running the length of her face while resting with an Elizabethan collar around her neck following surgery at the Angell Animal Medical Center, in Boston, Tuesday, Dec. 9, 2008.

OFFBEAT BRIEFS

Pastor prays over deposit slip, gets \$1.5M gift

LONGVIEW, Texas (AP)—A \$1 million bank deposit slip wish by a Longview minister to pay for a new church came true—and then some. The Rev. Thomas McDaniels of LifeBridge Christian Center said a businessman, who chooses to remain anonymous, wrote him a \$1.5 million check. Members of LifeBridge, which formed in 2005, had met at a Longview hotel. Their new church opens in a few weeks. McDaniels described on Monday how in January 2007 he took a bank deposit slip and wrote \$1 million, “meaning that one day someone would give us a million dollar gift.” The minister, who prayed over the deposit slip, said a business owner Dec. 2 asked how much was needed to pay for the church. McDaniels said \$1.4 million. The benefactor’s check included an extra \$100,000. McDaniels says, in these economic times, that “the Lord wanted to show his power.”

Happy Valley man tackles masked robbery suspect

HAPPY VALLEY, Ore. (AP)—The Happy Valley southeast of Portland doesn’t have much in common with the Happy Valley that’s home to the Penn State Nittany Lions. But they both produce good linebackers. Clackamas County authorities said a Happy Valley resident chased a masked robbery suspect through a bank parking lot Tuesday

afternoon and then brought him down with an NFL-style tackle. Sheriff’s Detective Jim Strovink identified the money-saving tackler as 50-year-old William Roger Onstott. The suspect allegedly lunged at a woman walking toward a Bank of America entrance and yanked a bank bag from her hand. The woman was taken to a hospital with injuries to her nose, hand and chest.

Gammelfleischparty is German youth word of year

BERLIN (AP)—German is famous for its long words—and today’s youth are just as adept at creating new ones as their predecessors, to judge by a poll released Wednesday by the publishers of Langenscheidt dictionaries. Judges chose “gammelfleischparty”, or “spoiled meat party,”—an unflattering term for a gathering of people over 30—as the “youth word of the year 2008.” The word “gammelfleisch” was in the news frequently during the year when it was discovered that meat packers had been regularly supplying some kebab restaurants with past-due products. “Bildschirmbraune” or “screen tan”—referring to the complexion of someone who spends too much time at a computer—came second, while “unterhopft,” meaning “underhopped,” or in need of a beer, took third.

Man brings 11-inch knife to court in walking stick

IOWA CITY, Iowa (AP)—Police arrested

a man who brought an 11-inch knife concealed in a walking cane to a court appointment. Police said the man concealed the blade in a cobra-head walking stick when he was to report to the Johnson County Courthouse on charges of violating a domestic-abuse protective order on Tuesday. Police say the man called his wife, who filed the domestic-abuse charges, and told her not to come to court on Tuesday. An Iowa City police officer who was sent to arrest the man found the concealed blade. The man was charged with going armed with a blade greater than 8 inches and violation of a domestic-abuse order.

Calif. KFC workers in hot water after sink baths


ANDERSON, Calif. (AP)—Three employees of a Kentucky Fried Chicken have been suspended for bathing in a deep sink used to clean dishes. The prank was discovered after one of the young women posted photos on a social networking site of the trio posing and cavorting in the steaming water in their underwear and swim wear. The photos were filed in a gallery called “KFC moments.” Captions included “haha KFC showers!” and “haha we turned on the jets.” A manager of the fast-food restaurant said the three were reprimanded and suspended Tuesday. She said no manager was on duty when the photos were taken as the three had closed the restaurant for the night.

NOTICE OF INTENTION TO WITHDRAW AND NOTICE OF APPLICATION TO WITHDRAW

Following a strategic review of our business in the region, notice is being given that MSIG Insurance (Singapore) Pte. Ltd. (formerly known as Aviva General Insurance Pte. Ltd.) intends to withdraw from the insurance business in the CNMI. An application for an Order permitting withdrawal from the insurance business in the CNMI has been filed with the Office of the Insurance Commissioner, Department of Commerce, CNMI.

All person interested in this matter should contact Rodney J. Rankin, Aon Insurance Micronesia (Saipan), Inc. as General Agent for MSIG Insurance (Singapore) Pte. Ltd., P.O. Box 502177, Garapan, Saipan, MP 96950 or (670) 234-2811.

MSIG Insurance (Singapore) Pte. Ltd.



COMMONWEALTH PORTS AUTHORITY
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E-Mail Address: cpa.admin@pticom.com • Website: www.cpa.gov.mp

FRANCISCO C. ADA/SAIPAN INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT
MOWING, TRIMMING AND CLEANING OF PROPERTY
GROUNDS
And
PERIMETER FENCE AND DITCH GRASS CUTTING
REQUEST FOR PROPOSALS

The Commonwealth Ports Authority (CPA) is soliciting sealed cost proposals for (A) Mowing of grass, trimming of flowers, bushes and trees and cleaning of the airport grounds and (B) Perimeter Fence and Ditch Grass Cutting. The sealed cost proposals in duplicates are due by **4:30 p.m., Friday, December 19, 2008** at the Office of the Executive Director, 2nd floor, Arrival Building, Saipan International Airport. The scope of work and contract documents shall be ready for pick up at the above said office by Monday, December 1, 2008.

Proposers may submit for both Part A and Part B, or proposers may submit for only one part, either A or B if desired. Part A is the first project and is labeled “SIA Mowing, Trimming and Cleaning of Property Grounds.” Part B is the second project and is labeled “SIA Perimeter Fence and Ditch Grass Cutting.”

A pre-proposal conference will be held at 10:00 am on Wednesday, December 10, 2008 at the CPA Airport Conference. Attendance at this pre-proposal conference is mandatory to be considered for the services.


Please make arrangements with the Airport Manager at telephone number 664-3500 for a site visit to better understand the scope of work and to identify the areas depicted on the sketch.

Along with your proposal, the submission of insurance coverage, company past performance, experience, a list of equipment and most recent financial statement reviewed by a Certified Public Accountant, are required to completely determine the company’s capability to perform the work. The successful proposer shall enter into an agreement with CPA for a one-year term which is renewable thirty (30) days prior to the expiration date for another year or as determined by CPA. The renewal of agreement shall be contingent upon CPA’s satisfaction of the company’s performance and the availability of funding.

CPA reserves the right to reject any and all proposals if in its sole decision to do so, is in its best interest.

/s/ EFRAIN F. CAMACHO, P.E.
Executive Director

Date: November 26, 2008



COMMONWEALTH PORTS AUTHORITY
Main Office: SAIPAN INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT
P.O. BOX 501055 • SAIPAN • MP 96950-1055
Phone: (670) 664-3500/1 Fax: (670) 234-5962
E-Mail Address: cpa.admin@pticom.com • Website: www.cpa.gov.mp

PUBLIC NOTICE
SOLICITATION FOR PROPOSALS

The Commonwealth Ports Authority (CPA), a public corporation of the Commonwealth of the Northern Marianas, hereby solicits proposals to lease and/or develop the following properties:

1. Lot No. 062 E 03; containing an area of approximately 1,725 square meters; two butler – type buildings, situated at the Saipan Seaport.
2. Lot No. 090 E 02; containing an area of approximately 1,958 square meters; adjacent to FAS Moving; situated at the Saipan Seaport.
3. Lot No. 193 E 05; containing an area of approximately 6,455 square meters; North Sea Plane Ramp; Saipan Seaport.
4. Lot No. 193 E 06; containing an area of approximately 5,163 square meters; North Sea Plane Ramp; Saipan Seaport.
5. Lot No. 066 E 01; containing an area of approximately 1,371 square meters; North Sea Plane Ramp; Saipan Seaport.

Interested parties may obtain a Proposal Package from the Office of the Executive Director, 2nd Floor, Arrival Building, at the Francisco C. Ada/Saipan International Airport, between 7:30 a.m. and 4:30 p.m., Monday through Friday, except holidays. A fee of \$35.00 shall be charged for each copy of the proposal package. Checks should be made payable to the Commonwealth Ports Authority.

The Proposal Package must be submitted to the Office of the Executive Director between 7:30 a.m. and 4:30 p.m. on or before December 12, 2008.

For more information, contact the Manager, Port of Saipan at 664-3550.

/s/ EFRAIN F. CAMACHO, P.E.
Executive Director

Date: November 24, 2008



COMMONWEALTH PORTS AUTHORITY
Main Office: SAIPAN INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT
P.O. BOX 501055 • SAIPAN • MP 96950
Phone: (1-670) 664-3500/1 • Fax: (1-670) 234-5962
E-mail Address: cpa.admin@saipan.com • Website: www.cpa.gov.com

PUBLIC NOTICE

TINIAN FERRY PASSENGER FEE

THE COMMONWEALTH PORTS AUTHORITY WILL DIRECTLY COLLECT THE \$2.25 PASSENGER FEE AT THE TINIAN SEAPORT FROM ALL NON DYNASTY GUESTS TRAVELING FROM TINIAN TO SAIPAN EFFECTIVE DECEMBER 15, 2008. BEFORE PURCHASING THE FERRY TICKET FROM THE TINIAN FERRY CASHIER, THE PASSENGER SHALL FIRST PAY THE PASSENGER FEE TO THE DESIGNATED CPA PERSONNEL. A RECEIPT SHALL BE PROVIDED TO THE PASSENGER TO PRESENT TO THE TINIAN FERRY CASHIER. THE TINIAN FERRY CASHIER SHALL NOT SELL THE FERRY TICKET TO ANYONE WITHOUT A RECEIPT OF THE PASSENGER FEE PAYMENT.

IF YOU HAVE ANY QUESTIONS REGARDING THE PASSENGER FEE, CALL 433-9493.

COMMONWEALTH PORTS AUTHORITY

EFRAIN F. CAMACHO, P.E.
Executive Director

Science & Technology

Gift guide: Smart phones for work and play

By RACHEL METZ
AP TECHNOLOGY WRITER

Navigating all the “smart” phones out there and picking one for yourself can be tricky, and purchasing one for someone else can be even more daunting. But with plenty of feature-packed options available this holiday season, ranging from the consumer-

applications and games. A few big drawbacks: The G1 does not have a standard headphone jack, and for storing songs, photos and videos, you need to rely on the included 1 gigabyte microSD card or buy a larger one.

Samsung Instinct

The touch-screen Instinct may lack the cachet of the iPhone, but it's filled with features and surprisingly easy to use. It

I found hard to use but does result in a skinnier device. One great feature is the “multi-touch” screen, which lets you do things like pinch photos to zoom in and out. There are also 10,000 applications to peruse at the on-phone app store, many of which can be downloaded for free. Unfortunately, the iPhone lacks a microSD card slot, so users can't add to its built-in memory. And there is no stereo Bluetooth, so don't bother buying wireless headphones to go with this gift.

Research In Motion BlackBerry Bold

Loaded with a full, spacious QWERTY keyboard, crystal-clear screen and bevy of wireless options, the Bold is a good smart phone for business and extracurricular pursuits. The device processes



In this Sept. 23, 2008 file photo, the T-Mobile G1 Android-powered phone, the first cell phone with the operating system designed by Google Inc., is shown in New York.

friendly iPhone to the more business-oriented BlackBerry Bold, chances are you can find a phone that's a better gift than a reindeer sweater.

HTC G1

The G1, the first phone powered by Google's Android operating system, has numerous flaws but is brimming with consumer-oriented features that may even lure iPhone fans. The face of the device has a large touch screen that is ideal for Web browsing and viewing photos and Google Maps. A slide-out QWERTY keyboard makes texting easy, and with access to the online Android Market you can download a variety of

even one-ups the iPhone with turn-by-turn navigation, video recording and picture messaging. Its greatest drawbacks



In this June 11, 2008 file photo, the Samsung Instinct is shown in New York.

may be that it doesn't sense more than one finger at a time, has a smaller screen, and most of all, that there are no third-party applications. Still, if the recipient is already a Sprint customer, this is a fine reason to stay.

Apple iPhone 3G

With its simple, stylish design, crisp touch screen and wealth of features, the iPhone 3G is the current king of smart phones. The device combines the music, video and photo features of an iPod with all sorts of goodies like full Web browsing, Wi-Fi and GPS capabilities and visual voice mail, which lets you see a list of voice messages and check them in the order you choose. Rather than a physical QWERTY keyboard it has a virtual, on-screen one—something



In this Nov. 18, 2008 file photo the BlackBerry Bold 9000 is shown Tuesday, Nov. 18, 2008 in New York.

operations quickly, and it's easy to check e-mails, surf the Web or use the included GPS service to get directions. Music fans will be happy to see the Bold has stereo Bluetooth and a standard headphone jack, so there are both tethered and wireless listening options. Users can stream videos on the Bold and watch ones that have been saved to it or to a microSD memory card. Incidentally, a memory card might be a good add-on for this gift since the handset includes only 1 gigabyte of memory.

Sony Ericsson Xperia X1

If price is no object, you may be interested in the Xperia X1. But because of its glut of options, I found the sleek smart phone slow and hard to navigate. It has lots of wireless options, a sharp touch screen, slide-out QWERTY keyboard and 3.2 megapixel camera. The X1 uses Windows Mobile 6.1 as its operating system, and includes a number of customized Sony Ericsson enhancements that run on top of it. Sometimes this is cool—there is a neat panel interface that lets you customize up to nine small rectangles for viewing different applications or media on the device. Other times this is bad—there are two ways to watch videos and music, which seems unnecessary. In general, the phone seemed fairly slow to open applications or complete actions, and it often takes several steps to complete a simple action like changing a panel icon.



In this Nov. 11, 2008 file photo, the Xperia X1 mobile phone from Sony Ericsson, New York.

HELP FILE

By ROB PEGORARO

(C) 2008, THE WASHINGTON POST

Q. I've been living in Europe for years and have collected some 400 DVDs. When I move back to the States soon, the region code on these discs will prevent them from working in U.S. DVD players. What are my options?

A. To evade these arbitrary restraints imposed by most movie studios, you'll need to buy a “multi-region” or “region-free” DVD player.

You shouldn't have much trouble finding one in Europe or the United States. A search at Amazon's U.K. site (amazon.co.uk) for “multi-region DVD player” yielded dozens of models; the same query on Amazon's U.S. page brought up a smaller but still respectable selection. (In some cases, you need to enter a special sequence of commands with the player's remote to unlock its region coding.)

Most multi-region players should also support the television video standards used in North America and Europe, NTSC and PAL. But you should check the specifications on any player you're considering.

If you only want to watch these movies on a computer, you have a far cheaper option: Download the free, open-source VLC Player (videolan.org/vlc/), which ignores region codes and runs in Windows, Mac OS X and Linux.

Q. I'm getting a new iPod. What do I need to do to make sure that my old music works with it?

A. Usually, nothing. As long as you don't have music stranded on your iPod that isn't also on your computer (see tinyurl.com/28wxn4 for my advice on that) and your computer runs Windows XP or Vista or Mac OS X 10.4 or 10.5, a new iPod should work like the old one.

You may have to install a new version of Apple's iTunes software, but that's it. This program doesn't care how many iPods you sync with your computer, even if you buy songs from the iTunes Store.

Troubleshooting errors is easier when you remember what they said. And the quickest way to record long, cryptic alerts is to take a picture of them. In Windows XP, hit the Print Screen key to copy everything on the screen. Then go to the Start Menu, select All Programs, scroll up that menu until you hit its Accessories sub-folder and select Paint. In the Paint program, hit Ctrl-V to paste the screen shot you just took, then go to the File menu, choose “Save As...” and change its file type to JPEG before saving it to someplace where you'll find it later on.

In Windows Vista, a “Snipping Tool” program greatly simplifies the task; to run it, type “snip” into the Start menu's search box.

On a Mac, hold down the Command (Apple logo), Shift and 3 keys to take a picture of the screen; it will be saved to your desktop as a file named “Picture 1.” You now have an image you can refer to—or e-mail to somebody with more knowledge of the problem.

A holiday gathering often provides a good excuse for videotaping the proceedings, but if you've got a new digital camera, you may have all the camcorder you need right in that device. While the video modes of digital cameras once might have made VHS footage look good in comparison, just about anything made in the last few years should record video in about the same resolution as a DVD. (Some can even shoot in high definition, although I didn't get great results with a pair of HD video-capable cameras I tested this spring.)

Your camera's video capability is usually accessible via a turn of the dial on its top or back, although you may have to use touch-screen controls instead. Before you record anything, however, remember to check its video options carefully, as it may come set to record in the lowest-quality mode available. And don't forget to pop at least a 1-gigabyte memory card into your camera, because digital video eats up memory far faster than even the highest-resolution photos.



In this Oct. 16, 2008 file photo, an Apple customer uses an iPhone at an Apple store in Palo Alto, Calif., Thursday, Oct. 16, 2008.

Life & Style

Suicide seen on TV is condemned in Britain

By GREGORY KATZ
ASSOCIATED PRESS WRITER

LONDON (AP)—The scene is difficult to watch, even for viewers inured to the subject of dying by a steady diet of violent Hollywood and television fare. Craig Ewert, a former computer scientist from Chicago, is shown lying in bed with his wife at his side while he takes barbiturates. He asks for a glass of apple juice to mask the bad taste and help him swallow. Then he uses his teeth to turn off his ventilator—and dies on camera.

Britain's obsession with reality television reached new heights—or depths—Wednesday night with the broadcast of the assisted suicide of the 59-year-old terminally ill American at a Swiss clinic.

Showing the final moment of death had long been a final taboo, even for no-holds-barred British TV, where sex and violence are common, and the broadcast unleashed debate on an issue that strongly divides public opinion.

Photographs of Ewert's final moments dominated Britain's newspaper front pages Wednesday—"SUICIDE TV" screamed one tabloid—and prompted a debate in Parliament, where Prime Minister Gordon Brown was quizzed about the propriety of the decision to air the program.

Before he died, Ewert said taking his own life would mean less suffering for himself and his family.

"If I go through with it, I die as I must at some point," he says in the documentary, which chronicles his 2006 decision to take his own life after being diagnosed with degenerative motor neuron disease.

"If I don't go through with it, my choice is essentially to suffer, and to inflict suffering on my family, and then die."

Care Not Killing, an anti-euthanasia group aligned with the Catholic Church and other religious organizations in Britain, denounced the broadcast as "a cynical attempt to boost television ratings" and persuade Parliament to legalize assisted suicide.

"There is a growing appetite from the British public for increasingly bizarre reality shows," said the group's director, Peter Saunders. "We'd see it as a new milestone. It glorifies assisted dying when there is a very active campaign by the pro-suicide lobby to get the issue back into Parliament."

Mary Ewert wrote in the British press Wednesday that her husband had been enthusiastic about having his final moments televised.

"He was keen to have it shown because when death is hidden and private, people

don't face their fears about it," she said, adding that he wanted viewers to understand that assisted suicide allowed him to die comfortably rather than enduring a long, drawn out and painful demise.

The documentary by Oscar-winning director John Zaritsky has previously been shown on Canadian and Swiss TV and at numerous film festivals, where it provoked little controversy. But it struck a raw nerve in Britain, where the divisive debate over assisted suicide remains unresolved.

Zaritsky said it would have been "less than honest" to make the film without showing the actual suicide because it would have left viewers wondering if the death was unpleasant, cruel, or carried out against Ewert's will.

"By putting it out there, and putting it out there in its entirety, people can judge for themselves," he said, adding that the documentary gives viewers an insight into how assisted suicide would work if it is legalized in more places.

Originally called "The Suicide Tourist," the film was renamed "Right to Die?" for its British broadcast on Sky TV's Real Lives digital channel, which draws far fewer viewers than the network's myriad news, sports or movie shows. Still, it generated enormous publicity, with clips shown throughout the day on Sky News and rival channels.

The televised suicide in Britain follows a well-publicized case in Florida, where a teenager killed himself on camera last month and broadcast the chilling images live on an Internet site.

Ewert, who was living in Britain when he became ill, went abroad to end his life because assisted suicide is illegal in Britain.

In the film, he says he wanted to take action before the disease, which destroys cells that control essential muscle activity such as speaking, walking, breathing and swallowing, left him completely incapacitated.

The documentary shows Ewert and his wife going about their daily routine: Mary cleans her husband's teeth, bathes, shaves and feeds him as he bows his head.

Speaking in a reedy voice and breathing deeply from plastic tubes attached to his nose, Ewert said he felt like "empty shell."

He said some people might say: "No, suicide is wrong, God has forbidden it. Fine, but you know what? This ventilator is God."

Before the pair leave for Switzerland, he is wheeled through a local park.

"I see the plants, and they're dying, and I'm dying too," he muses. "They'll be coming back next spring—I'm unlikely to."

"I think I can take my bow, and say: Thanks, it's been fun."

In an emotional message to his adult son and daughter, who appear in the program, Ewert asked for understanding.

"I would hope that this is not a cause of major distress to those who love me," he said, using a voice-activated computer to speak. "This is a journey I must make."

At the same time, he acknowledged, "My dear sweet wife will have the greatest loss, as we have been together for 37 years in the greatest intimacy."

The program shows Ewert being interviewed by Dr. Hans-Jurg Schweizer in Zurich, Switzerland. Schweizer, who is responsible for filling out the lethal prescriptions, gives his approval and wishes him a "happy journey."

Later, Ewert is set up on a small yellow bed in a nondescript room; as the technicians get ready, his wife says her goodbyes.

"Have a safe journey," she says, tearing up. "See you sometime."

Ewert chokes down the lethal cocktail, slurping apple juice through a pink straw to blot out

the taste as the ninth movement of Beethoven's symphony plays in the background. His wife holds his hand as he begins dying.

Dignitas, a well-known assisted suicide group in Switzerland, where suicide is legal in some circumstances, aided Ewert.

The group's founder Ludwig A. Minelli said the presence of cameras and filmmakers did not in any way influence Ewert's decision.


"Ewert, because of his illness and his declared intent right from the start to shorten his own suffering, never once considered

the possibility of abandoning his assisted suicide," said Minelli.

The case came up during the prime minister's question time Wednesday when legislator Phil Willis, who represents Ewert's district, complained that the film promoted a crime.

He asked Brown if the prime minister believed the show was "in the public interest" or simply a case of "distasteful voyeurism."

Brown did not venture an opinion, saying only that the government's "television watchdogs" will scrutinize the show after it is broadcast.



In loving memory of
Francisco Matagolai Pangelinan
(Bokonggo)
 NOVEMBER 22, 1954 — DECEMBER 4, 2008

of Yigo formerly of Saipan was called to our creator at the age of 54.
 Francisco will be greeted at the gates of heaven by his
Parents: †Eugenia Matagolai Pangelinan, †Ficio C. Pangelinan, †Jose R. Cruz,
 and step mother: †Maria C. Cruz.
Grandparents: †Simeon, †Rufina P. Matagolai, and †Jose, †Maria C. Pangelinan
Brother: †Joseph C. Cruz
Sister: †Ferminia Cruz Fleming and †Reginia S.N. Taga
Uncle: †Jesus P. and †Serafin P. Matagolai

Children & Spouse:
Franklin DLG, Adryanne S. Pangelinan, (Grand Daughter) Ana Lu Fachalani S. Pangelinan,
Lief DLG Pangelinan, **Sheika DLG Pangelinan**
 and Lucy M. De Leon Guerrero (First Wife).

Zylzohni "Zohin Boy" D. Pangelinan / Renee Quichocho, **Phayvian D. Pangelinan**,
Shaibe "Bok" D. Pangelinan, Patty Daga - Pangelinan (Second Wife).

Sisters, Brothers and In-laws:
 Maria M. Pangelinan / Gabriel Sablan & Children
 Francisca M. Pangelinan / Luden & Children
 Bertha M. Pangelinan & Children
 Augustina M. Pangelinan / Ben Celestine & Children
 Delia M. Pangelinan / Patrick Salvador & Children
 Carlynn P. / Francisco R. Cabrera & Children
 Rosa C. / Anthony R. Sablan & Children
 Norma C. / John Woo & Children
 Doris C. Cruz & Children
 Antonio C. / Femy Cruz & Children
 Marian Cruz & Children
 Joseph Cruz Jr. / Henrieta S. Cruz & Children
 Angelo / Librada Cruz
 Vivian Cruz Viches / Carlos & Children
 Edwina T. Menjis
 Cornelia Faisao & Children
 Cyprian Faisao & Children
 Jose "Bokonggo" San Nicolas & Children

Anties and Uncles:
 Remedio M. Sahagon (†Ignacio Sahagon)
 Caridad M. Pangelinan (†Jesus Pangelinan)
 Carmen M. Toves (Albert Toves Jr.)
 Cecilia P. Matagolai
 Vicente P. Matagolai (Remedio C. Matagolai)
 Luisa M. Quitugua (†Fermin M. Quitugua)
 Juanita P. Matagolai (Jose Lucio)
 Maria M. "Kire" Jones (Bino Jones)
 Bernie Rabauliman (Henry Rabauliman)

Godparents:
 †Jesus / Connie Conception
 Manuela / †Vicente Cepeda
 Antonio T. / Lucia B. Mendiola

He is also survived by numerous aunts, uncles, cousins, nieces, nephews and friends.

His remains will arrive from Guam on Friday December 12, 2008 at 9:00am and will be escorted to Nuestra Señora Dela Paz Memorial Chapel at the Cabrera Center. Rosary will be said upon his arrival. His 9th day mass will be offered at San Antonio church at 6:00pm and Rosary will be followed at 8:00pm at Nuestra Señora Dela Paz Memorial Chapel.

On Saturday, December 13, 2008 his body will leave Nuestra Señora Dela Paz Memorial Chapel at 7:00am to Mt. Carmel Cathedral. Responso and Rosary will follow upon arrival.

Mass of Christian Burial will be celebrated at 11:00 a.m. Interment Service will follow at Chalan Kanoa Catholic Cemetery.

Thank you and Si Yu'us Ma'ase for your Prayers and Thoughts from the Family.

Message of Appreciation

We, the family of the late

†Eufracinia G. Bacani

wish to extend our heartfelt appreciation to all who have joined us during our daily Masses and rosaries for our beloved mother, grandmother and great-grandmother. Your presence, thoughts and prayers during this difficult times has put comfort in our hearts.

Special thanks to
Father Charlie Borja, St. Jude Parish
Choir, Winnie C. Camacho,
Lynette S. Tenorio, JC Tenorio Ent.
& Family, ICU staff, Mayor's Office
and Aida Ada (Tetcha).

*Si Yu'us Ma'ase.
Thank You.
Salamat Po.*

**From Bacani's, Cabrera
& Muna Family**



Jewish estate shows two Nazi forced-sale paintings

BERLIN (AP)—Two paintings that the Nazis forced a Jewish art dealer to sell off in the 1930s have been returned to his estate, and its heirs said Wednesday they were working hard to recover hundreds more.

The ordeal shows just how painstaking the restitution process remains, even 10 years after the world pledged to work toward returning the estimated 250,000 to 600,000 pieces of art looted by the Nazis to their rightful owners.

The Max Stern estate is working to recover all the estimated 400 works sold off from Stern's collection between 1935 and 1937, estate representative Clarence Epstein said Wednesday.

The returned paintings were put on display—"Flight from Egypt" by the circle of Jan Wellens de Cock and "Girl from the Sabine Mountains" by Franz Xaver Winterhalter. The latter was a copy. Both paintings will be loaned to art museums in Canada for display.

Stern escaped to England in 1937 after the Nazi government forced him to liquidate his art gallery. He later moved to Canada, where he again became an art dealer after World War II. After his death in 1987,



In this file photo taken in the 1930s in Germany and provided by Maria-Luise Bissonnette her late stepfather, Dr. Karl Heinrich Christian Wilharm, right, with wife, Lili, standing alongside an oil on canvas painting by Franz Xaver Winterhalter, (1806-1873), entitled "Girl from the Sabine Mountains," just above and to the left.

Stern—who had no children—left his estate to McGill and Concordia Universities in Montreal and Hebrew University of Jerusalem.

Only 25 pieces of Stern's original collection have been located so far in public and private collections, Epstein said.

"We are now here ... to be-

gin the process of pursuing claims on the works that are circulating" in the art world, he said.

The universities have set up the Max Stern Art Restitution Project, aiming to eventually reclaim the entire collection, much of which is believed to be held in collections in Germany, Austria and the Netherlands.

Major international auction houses such as Sotheby's and Christie's have helped to discover where some works ended up and to mediate their return—as was the case with the de Cock painting.

But the request for the Winterhalter work wound its way through U.S. courts for more than a year until the 1st U.S. Circuit Court of Appeals in Boston last month ordered that it be returned to the Stern estate.

The case set a precedent in the United States for restitution cases by equating works where Nazis forced a sale with art that was looted or stolen.

"The U.S. courts now have ruled definitively that ordering Stern to sell the painting was the same as confiscating or stealing it from him," said Thomas Kline, an attorney who represented the Stern estate.

MLK papers yanked from auction

NEW YORK (AP)—Sotheby's has withdrawn from auction three papers related to Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. after his estate claimed the documents being sold by Harry Belafonte are estate property.

Belafonte himself asked that the papers be withdrawn from Thursday's sale, said Lauren Gioia, a Sotheby's spokeswoman. The auction house did not comment further.

The documents, including a handwritten draft of King's first anti-Vietnam war speech in 1967, had a collective pre-sale estimate of \$750,000 to \$1.3 million.

"The King estate believes the documents being offered in Thursday's auction are a part of the wrongly acquired collection," said a statement issued on behalf of the estate Wednesday by Isaac Farris, CEO of the King Center in Atlanta. "The King estate is currently in conversations with Sotheby's to establish the truth."

A message left after hours Wednesday with the King Center seeking further comment wasn't immediately returned.

Belafonte could not be reached for comment. He earlier told The Associated Press

that the papers were given to him by King or his wife after the civil rights leader was assassinated in 1968.

The King estate said unnamed members of the singer's family previously tried to "anonymously and secretly" sell other such documents through a Beverly Hills, Calif., auction house. It said the estate managed to block that sale and the documents were returned to it, with an apology by the would-be sellers to Coretta Scott King. It did not cite a date for that incident.

In a telephone interview Sunday, Belafonte said he was putting the documents up for sale because "I am at the end of my life—I will be 82 shortly—and there are a lot of causes I believe in for which resources are not available, and there is a need to redistribute those resources."

He recalled how he became a close friend and early follower of King's civil rights movement in the mid-1950s and provided him with an apartment for his use on visits to New York City.

It was there, Belafonte said, that King drafted the first speech attacking U.S. involvement in Vietnam. When he flew to Los Angeles to deliver the speech to a celebrity-stud-

ded audience, he left behind the outline, written on three pages of yellow legal pad.

Also up for sale were scribbled notes for a speech King intended to deliver in Memphis, Tenn., on April 7, 1968, defending the right of city sanitation workers to strike for a living wage.

The notes, found in King's pocket after he was gunned down on April 4, 1968, on a Memphis motel balcony, were given by his wife to the late Stan Levison, a close friend who then gave them to Belafonte, he said.

The third item was a condolence letter from then-President Lyndon B. Johnson to Mrs. King, expressing sympathy over her husband's murder and promising all federal and local law enforcement resources to find the killer. Belafonte said she had given him the letter.

Selby Kiffer, a senior curator of documents at Sotheby's, said the anti-war letter would probably rank in importance with the most significant papers in King's archive, his "Letter from a Birmingham Jail," the draft of his "I Have a Dream" speech and his Nobel Peace Prize acceptance speech.

First Death Anniversary

We, the family of the late

Vicente Iguel Lieto

"Tun Ben"

Husband of the late Maria Kotomar Taitano Lieto

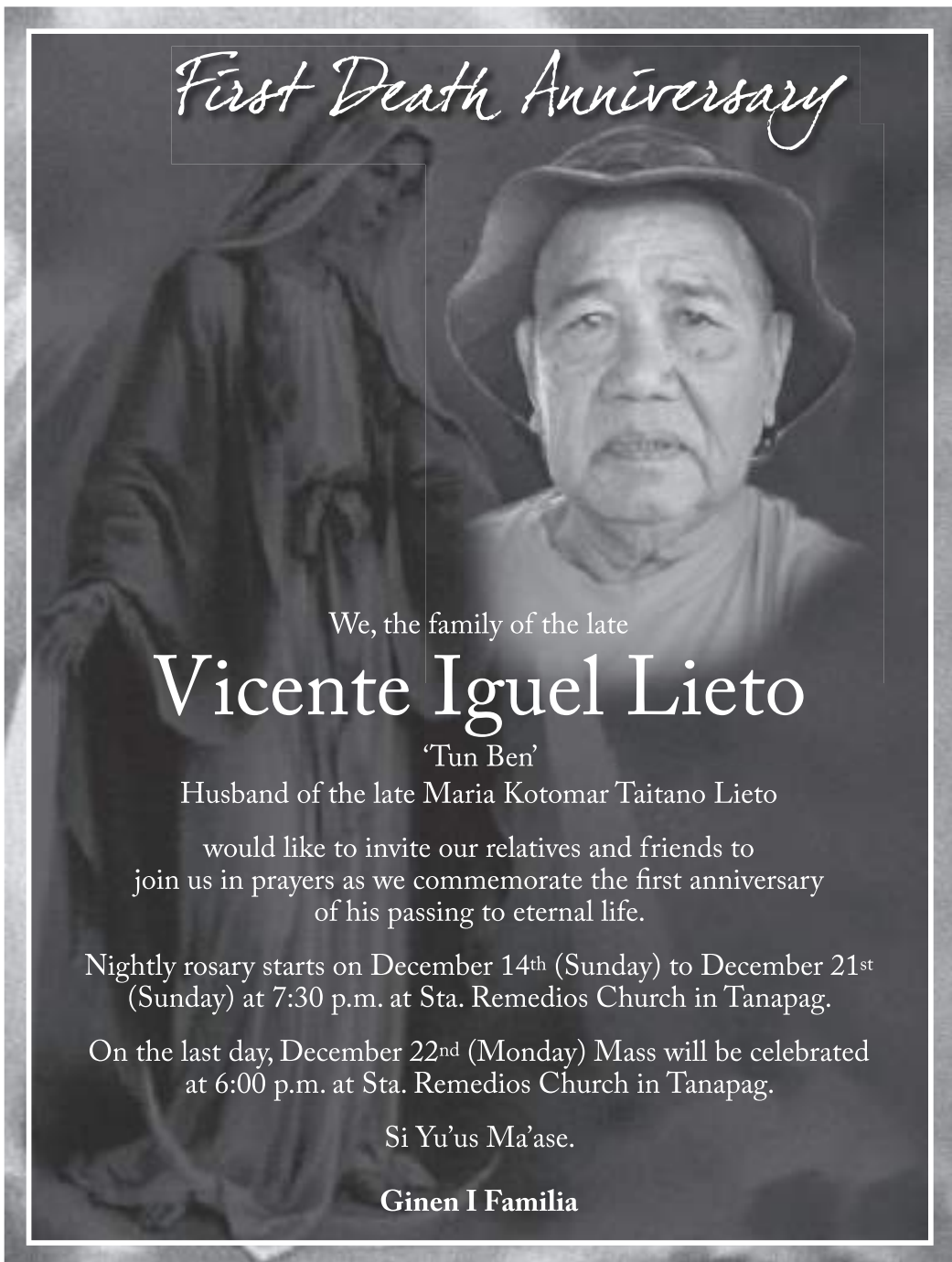
would like to invite our relatives and friends to join us in prayers as we commemorate the first anniversary of his passing to eternal life.

Nightly rosary starts on December 14th (Sunday) to December 21st (Sunday) at 7:30 p.m. at Sta. Remedios Church in Tanapag.

On the last day, December 22nd (Monday) Mass will be celebrated at 6:00 p.m. at Sta. Remedios Church in Tanapag.

Si Yu'us Ma'ase.

Ginen I Familia



'Milk' named best film by New York Film Critics

NEW YORK (AP)—Sean Penn and "Milk," Gus Van Sant's biopic about gay rights leader Harvey Milk, continued to gain awards momentum Wednesday, winning best film from the New York Film Critics Circle.

Penn was chosen as best actor for his performance in the lauded film about Milk, the openly gay San Francisco politician who was assassinated in 1978. Josh Brolin won best supporting actor for his performance in the film.

On Tuesday, Penn was chosen as best actor by the Los Angeles Film Critics Association. "Milk" also leads the Broadcast

Film Critics Association with eight nominations, tied for the most with "The Curious Case of Benjamin Button."

Like their West Coast brethren, the New York critics picked Sally Hawkins for best actress for her performance in Mike Leigh's "Happy-Go-Lucky." Best director went to Leigh. The New York circle, which last year chose "No Country for Old Men" as best film, is a group of 33 New York-based critics. Their picks are one of the early film honors in Hollywood's long awards season, which continues Thursday with nominations for the Golden Globes.

Best supporting actress went to Penelope Cruz for her role in Woody Allen's "Vicky Cristina Barcelona." Jenny Lumet, daughter of Sidney Lumet, won for her screenplay of "Rachel Getting Married."

"Man on Wire" won best documentary, "WALL-E" won best animated film and "4 Months, 3 Weeks and 2 Days" won best foreign film. Anthony Dod Mantle won for his cinematography in "Slumdog Millionaire." Courtney Hunt ("Frozen River") won for best first film.

The awards ceremony will be held Jan. 5 in New York.



In this image released by Focus Features, Sean Penn portrays gay rights activist Harvey Milk in a scene from a scene from, "Milk."

'Knight,' 'Milk' jockey for Golden Globe

BEVERLY HILLS, Calif. (AP)—The Academy Awards picture should begin to grow clearer as contenders are announced for Hollywood's Oscar prelude, the Golden Globes.

Nominations for the 66th annual Globes on Thursday will help sort out Oscar prospects in a wide-open field of films and performances, from which front-runners have yet to emerge.

The Batman blockbuster "The Dark Knight," once considered a longshot for the top prize because of its superhero trappings, has seen its best-picture chances swell now that studios have unveiled the last of

their late-year prestige films.

While some fine films have surfaced, critics and awards watchers sense that "The Dark Knight" can stand with the best of them. Supporting-actor buzz for co-star Heath Ledger, who died the day of Oscar nominations last January, remains as strong as ever, while "Dark Knight" filmmaker Christopher Nolan has a good shot in the directing category.

Other films in the mix include Sean Penn's Harvey Milk biography "Milk"; Brad Pitt and Cate Blanchett's romantic fantasy "The Curious Case of Benjamin Button"; Ron Howard's Richard Nixon

drama "Frost/Nixon"; Danny Boyle's poor-boy-makes-good saga "Slumdog Millionaire"; and Clint Eastwood's vigilante tale "Gran Torino."

The acting categories could end up a mix of top-name actors such as Penn, Pitt, Eastwood, Angelina Jolie ("Changeling") and Kate Winslet ("Revolutionary Road," "The Reader"), along with such lesser-known performers as Sally Hawkins ("Happy-Go-Lucky"), Melissa Leo ("Frozen River") and Viola Davis ("Doubt").

The Globe ceremony is scheduled for Jan. 11, 11 days before Oscar nominations.

Attorney: Suspect in Ruffalo death cleared

BEVERLY HILLS, Calif. (AP)—Police cleared a woman arrested in the shooting death of actor Mark Ruffalo's younger brother after being shown evidence that the wound was self-inflicted, the result of playing with a gun, her attorney said Wednesday.

Police records confirmed that Shaha Mishaal Adham, 26, left the Beverly Hills jail, where she'd been held without bail since surrendering Monday afternoon on an attempted murder arrest warrant.

Attorney Ronald Richards said

he presented evidence to detectives during a five-hour meeting Tuesday night that proved Adham did not shoot Scott Ruffalo early Dec. 1. He said Ruffalo's gunshot wound to the head was self-inflicted—that Adham was essentially a witness to a game of Russian Roulette.

"This was an accidental shooting by someone that plays with guns," Richards said. He credited police with being "more than impartial with the facts."

Richards said Adham, a friend of Scott Ruffalo's, had gone to

the hairdresser's condo to retrieve keys to her sport utility vehicle, then fled the scene.

"A series of wrong decisions starting with her not staying at the scene of the shooting caused an incredible chain reaction of stupidity and bad luck," Richards said. He said she received poor legal advice from other attorneys before her surrender.

Richards said no charges would be pursued against Adham. A police sergeant said more information would be released Wednesday.

Leno's move becomes monologue fodder

NEW YORK (AP)—Jay Leno treated his move to prime time at NBC like all headlines—as monologue fodder.

"A lot of people were shocked," the "Tonight" show host joked Tuesday night. "They didn't know NBC still had a prime time."

The network announced Tuesday that Leno will get a show five nights a week at 10 Eastern, after he leaves the "Tonight" show next May. The network had announced nearly five years ago that Conan O'Brien would move to "Tonight" and succeed Leno.

Leno made light of his possible jump to another network, playfully telling stagehands:

"Guys, leave those boxes. We're not going anywhere."

He also said reports about a possible move "were nothing but rumors started by a disgruntled employee: me."

Leno joked that his longtime rival—CBS' David Letterman—would try to one-up him with a scheduling change by having a show at 9:59 p.m. (Earlier this year, Letterman said he wants to continue hosting his "Late Show" past 2010.)

Leno's deal also has the potential to be a big cost savings for NBC. A talk show is considerably cheaper to produce than the dramas that usually air at 10 p.m. Eastern.

Leno could now deliver his

nightly monologue and sketches to more viewers. Generally about 50 percent more people are watching TV at 10 p.m. than at 11:35 p.m.

Dramas used to be a mainstay of network schedules, and NBC's own history at the time slot includes "ER," "Hill Street Blues," "Law & Order" and "L.A. Law."

Yet dramas have been fading in recent years. One reason is digital video recorders; more people are watching shows they taped earlier than the live 10 p.m. shows.

Ten years ago, "ER" was the top-rated show in television, with an average of 25.4 million viewers. This season, its last, "ER" is averaging 9.9 million viewers and is ranked No. 33 in prime time.



Leno

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The Day The Earth Stood Still

Friday 4:05 7:25 10:00
Saturday 1:20 4:05 7:25 10:00
Sunday 1:20 4:05 7:25
Mon thru Thurs 4:05 7:25

Keanu Reeves, Jennifer Connelly
Sci-Fi • Rated PG 13

Synopsis

Aliens land on Earth with a message for all humans: live in peace or be destroyed.



Delgo

Friday 4:00 7:00 9:45
Saturday 1:00 4:00 7:00 9:45
Sunday 1:00 4:00 7:00
Mon thru Thurs 4:00 7:00

Freddie Prince Jr. (v), Val Kilmer (v)
Fantasy, Animated, Adventure • Rated PG

Synopsis

A fantasy epic about a teenager's struggle to unite two warring nations.



Punisher War Zone

Friday 4:10 @ 9:40
Saturday @ 4:10 @ 9:40
Sunday @ 4:10 @
Mon thru Thurs 4:10 @

Ray Stevenson, Dominic West
Action, Adventure • Rated PG



My Only U

Friday 4:20 7:05 9:35
Saturday 1:05 4:20 7:05 9:35
Sunday 1:05 4:20 7:05
Mon thru Thurs 4:20 7:05

Vhong Navarro, Toni Gonzaga
Comedy, Romance • Rated PG 13



Four Christmases

Friday @ 7:10 @
Saturday 1:15 @ 7:10 @
Sunday 1:15 @ 7:10 @
Mon thru Thurs @ 7:10 @

Nince Vaughn, Reese Witherspoon
Comedy, Family, Holiday • Rated PG 13



Transporter 3

Friday 4:30 7:15 9:55
Saturday 1:25 4:30 7:15 9:55
Sunday 1:25 4:30 7:15
Mon thru Thurs 4:30 7:15

Jason Statham, Robert Berland
Action, Crime, Sequel • Rated PG 13



Twilight

Friday 4:25 7:20 9:50
Saturday 1:30 4:25 7:20 9:50
Sunday 1:30 4:25 7:20
Mon thru Thurs 4:25 7:20

Kristen Stewart, Robert Pattinson
Drama, Thriller • Rated PG 13



Bolt

Friday 4:15 7:30 9:30
Saturday 1:10 4:15 7:30 9:30
Sunday 1:10 4:15 7:30
Mon thru Thurs 4:15 7:30

John Travolta, Miley Cyrus
Action, Animated • Rated PG

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It's time for mother to put an end to boy's tantrums

By ABIGAIL VAN BUREN
UNIVERSAL PRESS SYNDICATE

DEAR ABBY: A little over a year ago, my sons—ages 10 and 11—met a 10-year-old boy named “Adam” and have played with him often since. During this time, Adam’s mother and I have cultivated a warm friendship that I don’t want to lose.

The problem? My sons don’t like to play with Adam anymore. They say he cries and storms out when he doesn’t get his way. I have observed this behavior myself. His mom has commented on it to me, but doesn’t know what to do about it.

How can I tell my good friend that my kids don’t want to play with her son anymore? CAN I tell her? My sons have “sucked it up” several times now so I could visit with her, but I don’t think it’s fair to keep asking them to do that. My boys get along nicely with their other friends and would rather play with them. Is there any way to solve this?

BAFFLED IN CHARLOTTE

DEAR BAFFLED: It would be a kindness to tell Adam’s mother that it’s time to do something she should have done years ago—better late than never: explain to her son the effect his behavior has on other kids, and that if it continues he will have no friends to play with.

The boy is old enough to understand plain English, and also cause and effect. If there is a father anywhere in the picture, he should also talk to his son.

Adam should also be warned by his mother that if he pulls that nonsense again with your boys, he won’t be invited back. Then he should be given one more chance to participate at an appropriate age level and not a 2-year-old’s.

■ ■ ■ ■

DEAR ABBY: My older sister, “Iris,” has suffered from depression for years, partly due to the success I have achieved in my life. I have traveled internationally, received scholarships, and now at 26, have a well-paying job and a loving husband.

Iris dropped out of college twice, works a minimum-wage job and has never had a boyfriend. I never brag about any of my achievements, but we talk on the phone often and she knows everything that’s going on in my life.

My sister has never openly displayed any jealousy or resentment, but our mother has confided to me that Iris has been taking antidepressants for years and feels that she has never accomplished anything “great.”

I have now learned that I’m expecting my first child. I’m afraid that when Iris finds out, she may be devastated. How can I tell her without sending her into a deeper depression, and how can I enjoy the good things that happen to me without feeling guilty about my sister?

GUILTY ACHIEVER IN CANADA

DEAR GUILTY ACHIEVER: A step in the right direction would be for you to do some reading about chronic depression, so you can understand that your achievements did not cause your sister’s problem. She is taking antidepressants to help her regulate a chemical imbalance in her brain that, apparently, she has been trying to cope with for many years—which would explain why she had difficulty with personal relationships and her studies. If she’s not already receiving it, psychotherapy—in addition to her medications—could help her.

The time has come to stop feeling guilty for your blessings. Tell your sister about the baby and let her share your happiness until she’s well enough to find it on her own. It could help with her healing.

Dear Abby is written by Abigail Van Buren, also known as Jeanne Phillips, and was founded by her mother, Pauline Phillips. Write Dear Abby at www.DearAbby.com or P.O. Box 69440, Los Angeles, CA 90069.

For an excellent guide to becoming a better conversationalist and a more attractive person, order “How to Be Popular.” Send a business-size, self-addressed envelope, plus check or money order for \$6 (U.S. funds only) to: Dear Abby Popularity Booklet, P.O. Box 447, Mount Morris, IL 61054-0447. (Postage is included.)



Dear Abby

Tyler Perry wins suit over copyright infringement

DALLAS (AP)—A woman who accused actor-screenwriter Tyler Perry of stealing material from her play for his movie “Diary of a Mad Black Woman” lost her federal lawsuit against the entertainer on Tuesday.

Jurors in the East Texas town of Marshall found Donna West did not present evidence that supported her claim of copyright infringement.

In the lawsuit filed in May

2007, West argued that Perry lifted material her “Fantasy of a Black Woman.” The play was performed three times in 1991 in Dallas and West contended Perry could have gained access to the script in 1998 when he presented his plays at the Dallas Black Academy of Arts and Letters.

Perry, who testified during the trial, insisted that his screenplay is an original work. His work on the film gained him several

awards and nominations.

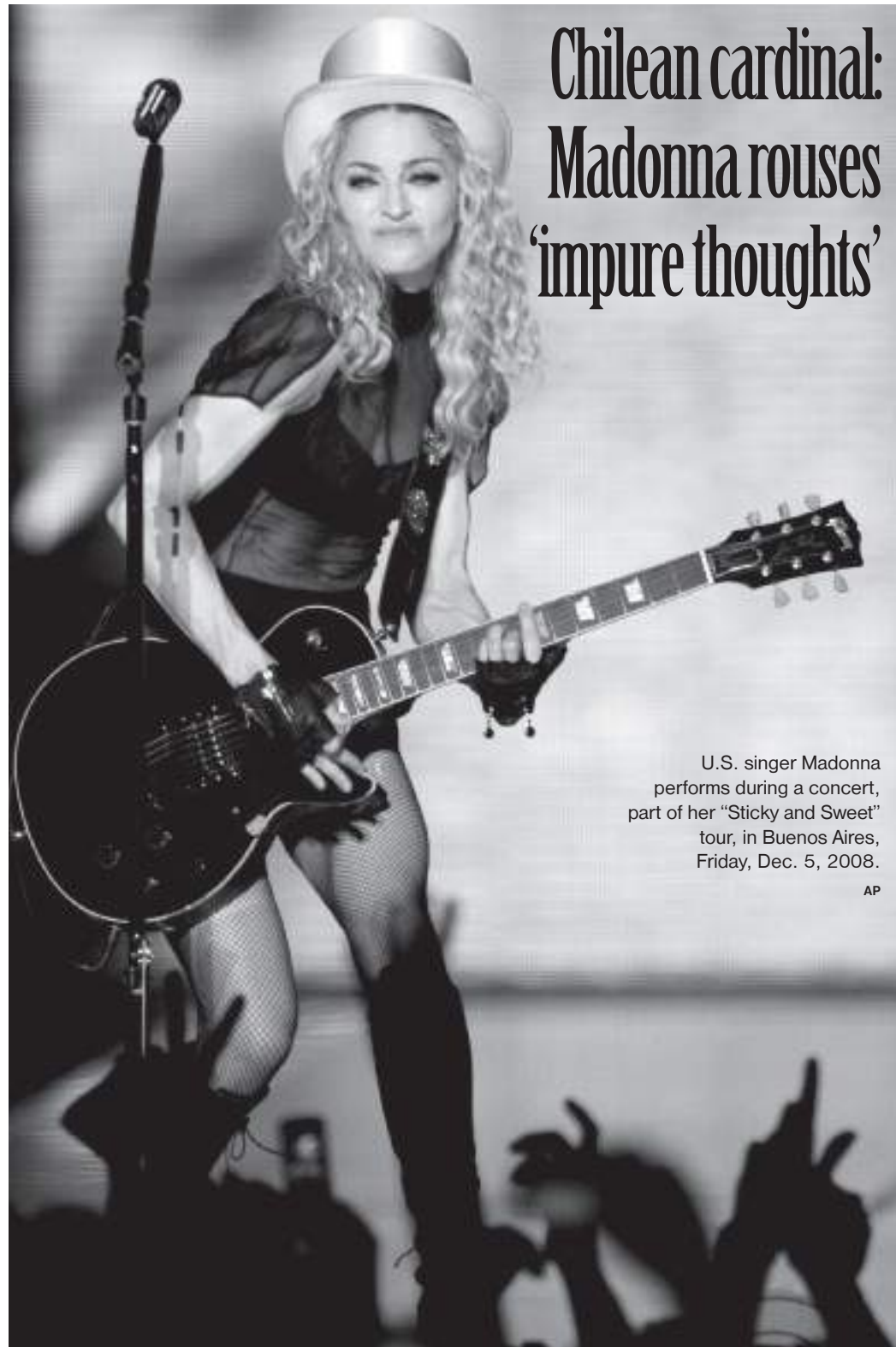
“We are very pleased that the jurors understood that Tyler Perry is an incredibly talented person who has no need to copy the work of others,” attorney Veronica Lewis said in an e-mail to The Associated Press.

Attorneys for West plan to seek a new trial.

“Obviously we’re very disappointed. We thought we’d made our case,” said Willie Briscoe,

one of West’s attorneys. “I believe that we conclusively demonstrated that Mr. Perry had access to Ms. West’s work, that there were striking similarities between her work and his work.”

Aside from Perry, West sued the actor’s company, Tyler Perry Inc., because it sells the movie online and by mail. West also filed suit against Lions Gate Entertainment, Inc., which funded and distributed the film.



**Chilean cardinal:
Madonna rouses
‘impure thoughts’**

U.S. singer Madonna performs during a concert, part of her “Sticky and Sweet” tour, in Buenos Aires, Friday, Dec. 5, 2008.

AP

SANTIAGO, Chile (AP)—Madonna is causing “crazy enthusiasm” and “impure thoughts” on her first concert visit to Chile, a prominent retired cardinal complained on Wednesday, as he paused in a tribute to a late dictator to denounce the pop star.

Roman Catholic Cardinal Jorge Medina criticized the flamboyant singer during his homily at a Mass in honor of the late dictator Augusto Pinochet, who oversaw the deaths of some 3,200 dissidents during his 1973-1990 rule.

“This woman comes here and in an incredibly shameless manner, she provokes a crazy enthusiasm, an enthusiasm of lust, lustful thoughts, impure thoughts,” said Medina, the cardinal who was chosen to announce the election of Pope Benedict XV.

Hundreds of fans spent three days camping outside the National Stadium in Santiago to get good spots for Wednesday’s concert, the first of two. About 60,000 people were expected at each performance.

One of those waiting in line, Roberto Lopez, told local reporters that he had quit his job in the southern city of Punta Arenas because his boss hadn’t given him time off to attend the concert.

Pinochet died Dec. 10, 2006, at age 91.

Medina said that some of those who claim to seek justice for violations of human rights under the dictator are actually seeking revenge.

Report: Broadcasters are having bad year

NEWYORK (AP)—Broadcast TV’s fall season is going so poorly that four out of five returning programs have a smaller audience than they had in 2007.

A top TV researcher said Wednesday that it’s shaping up as a historically bad season for ABC, CBS, NBC and Fox. Only eight of the 66 returning shows have gained viewers, five of them on CBS. Five shows have no change. “Heroes,” “Private Practice” and “Prison Break” are among the big losers.

The Turner Networks’ research chief Jack Wakshlag said there are even darker clouds on the horizon for broadcasters. The mandatory conversion to digital TV by Feb. 17, 2009, will further cut into viewing.

‘Dark Knight’ tuned in for Oscar score eligibility

LOS ANGELES (AP)—Batman has a shot at an Academy Award for musical score, after all.

The music branch committee of the Academy of Motion Picture Arts and Sciences has reversed an earlier decision that would have made “The Dark Knight” score ineligible

to compete for the Oscar.

On Nov. 10, the committee declared the score ineligible because the studio submitted too many names as musical contributors. The committee now has reversed that ruling after getting further information that only two composers, Hans

Zimmer and James Newton Howard, wrote the score.

A statement from the academy says nomination ballots and lists of eligible scores have not yet been distributed to branch members, so voting will not be affected by the change. Oscar nominations come out Jan. 22.

Jerry Lewis to receive Oscar’s humanitarian award

LOS ANGELES (AP)—Jerry Lewis has never been nominated for an Oscar, but he’s going to get one anyway. The 82-year-old will receive the Jean Hersholt Humanitarian Award at the Oscar ceremony in February.

The governors of the Academy of Motion Picture Arts and

Sciences announced their selection Wednesday. The Hersholt Award—an actual Oscar statuette—recognizes humanitarian efforts that have brought credit to the film industry.

An actor, director, writer and producer, Lewis made his big-screen debut in 1949’s

“My Friend Irma.” He has been national chairman of the Muscular Dystrophy Association since 1952 and has raised more than \$2 billion for the cause through his annual Labor Day telethon.

The Oscars will be presented Feb. 22.

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All advertising in the Saipan Tribune are subject to applicable rate sheet, copies of which are available from the Advertising Sales Department (please call 235-8747, 235-2769 or 235-6397). All ads will be subject to approval prior to publication. We reserve the right to edit, refuse, reject or cancel any ad at any time. Also, Saipan Tribune reserves the right to place ads under proper headings and to revise copy when necessary.

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OF THE
COMMONWEALTH OF THE
NORTHERN MARIANA ISLANDS**

GUAM INSURANCE : CIVIL
ADJUSTERS, INC., : ACTION
Plaintiff, : NO. 06-0576

-v- :

CATHERINE BORJA :
PANGELINAN :
Deceased. :

SUMMONS FOR PUBLICATION

TO THE ABOVE-NAMED
DEFENDANT:

YOU ARE HEREBY SUMMONED
and notified to file any answer you wish to
make to the Complaint, a copy of which is
served upon you hereby, within twenty-one
(21) days after the fourth publication of this
Summons, and to deliver or mail a copy of
your answer to the Law Office of Michael A.
White, LLC, the Plaintiff's Attorneys,
whose address is P.O. Box 5222, Saipan, MP
96950, as soon as practicable after filing
your answer or sending it to the Clerk of
Courts for filing.

Your answer should be in writing and
filed with the Clerk of this Court at Susupe,
Saipan. It may be prepared and signed for
you by your counsel and sent to the Clerk of
this Court by messenger or mail. It is not
necessary for you to appear personally until
further notice. If you fail to file an answer
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demanded in the Complaint.

By order of the above court:

/s/ Deputy Clerk of Court

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WEDNESDAY NOVEMBER 14, 2007

Guard files sex harassment suit vs principal. PAGE 3
2 hurt in Puerto Rico vehicular crash. PAGE 5

There is still hope for nonimmigrant status

joins Micronesia Summit

235- NEWS



**Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands
Office of the Secretary of Public Works**

2nd Floor Joeten Commercial Building, Gualo Rai
Saipan, MP 96950



**INVITATION FOR BIDS
DPW09-IFB-001**

CONSTRUCTION OF ROUTE 201 ROAD IMPROVEMENTS, TINIAN

Governor Benigno R. Fitial and Lt. Governor Timothy P. Villagomez, through the Department of Public Works (DPW) are soliciting sealed bids for the Construction of Route 201 Road Improvements, Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands (TINIAN).

The project package will be available on or after December 5, 2008 at Pacific Quick Print & Post, Chalan Pale Arnold, Saipan. A non-refundable payment to Pacific Quick Print & Post, amount to be determined, is required for each set. All interested bidders are also required to include Insurer Clearance Certification (ICC) in their bid packages in order to bid on this project. The ICC can be obtained at the Department of Commerce/Office of the Insurance Commissioner (Ole) on Capitol Hill.

Bidding procedures shall be in full compliance with the CNMI Procurement Regulations, dated May 24, 2001, however, Article 7, "Local Business Preference", as amended by Public Law 15-95 and as further amended by Public Law 15-118, is **not available** to local bidders in this procurement because its use is prohibited by the Federal law granting the funding for this project. All wages rates for employees performing the work, labor and services on this project shall be paid the current minimum wages as required by the CNMI law & Federal Law.

There will be a Pre-bid Conference for this project on December 29, 2008, 9:00 a.m. local time at the Department of Public Works Conference Room, Gualo Rai Office. The Prospective bidders are encouraged to familiarize themselves with the site. All questions regarding this project must be submitted in writing no later than 4:30 p.m. local time on January 19, 2009 to **Mr. Joseph M. Inos, Jr., Director** of Technical Services Division, DPW 2nd Floor Joeten Commercial Building, Oleai Center, Saipan or fax to (670) 234-3547.

Sealed bids must be marked "**DPW09-IFB-001**". For bidders within the CNMI, an original and two copies of sealed bids must be submitted to the Director of Procurement and Supply, Lower Base, Saipan, no later than 10:00 a.m. local time January 22, 2009. Bidders located outside of the CNMI may obtain an additional Seven (7) working days for receipt of their bids by submitting a Notice of Intent to bid. Notices of Intent to bid must be received by the Director of Procurement and Supply no later than 10:00 a.m. local time January 22, 2009, and must be transmitted via facsimile to (670) 664-1515, or via e-mail to procurement@pticom.com. For bidders located outside the CNMI, an original and two copies of sealed bids must be postmarked by the U.S. Postal Service or the official government postal service of a foreign country no later than January 22, 2009, and must be received no later than February 2, 2009. Note that failure to submit the required number of copies may be cause for rejection of a bid.

Bids will be publicly opened and read at the Division of Procurement and Supply, Lower Base, Saipan, at 10:00 a.m. local time, February 6, 2009. However, if no notices of intent to bid were received from bidders outside the CNMI, bids will be opened at 10:00 a.m. local time, on January 28, 2009.

For bids greater than Twenty-Five Thousand Dollars (**\$25,000.00**) a bid security of fifteen (15%) of the bid amount must accompany the bid. This security may be Certified Check, Cashier's Check or Bid Bond. Checks must be made payable to the CNMI Treasurer, with the name of the bidder and a notation on the face of the check: "Credit Account No. 44660".

The bidder submitting the lowest responsive bid will be subject to a responsibility determination in conformance with the CNMI Procurement Regulations Section 3-301. The responsible bidder submitting the lowest responsive bid will be awarded a contract with the CNMI Government and will be required to deliver Performance and Payment bonds, each equal to 100% of the contract price for contracts greater than \$25,000.00. The surety company providing the Performance and payment bonds must be authorized to conduct business in CNMI and possess unencumbered assets equal to the penal amount of each bond.

Performance time for completion of this project is one hundred Two Hundred forty (**240**) **working days** upon issuance of Notice to Proceed. Liquidated damages for delays beyond the established completion date will be assessed according to Table 108-1 of the Standard Specification for Construction and Bridges on Federal Projects FP-96.

This project is funded in part by a grant from the U.S. Department of Transportation (DOT), Federal Highway Administration (FHWA). Contract award is contingent upon funding approval by the FHWA.

All bid documents received shall become the sole property of the CNMI Government. The Government reserves the right to reject any or all bids and to waive any imperfection in a bid proposal that does not effect the elements of price, quantity, and delivery of the bid, in the best interest of the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands.

/s/ DIEGO B. SONGSON
Secretary of Public Works

/s/ HERMAN S. SABLAN
Director, Procurement & Supply



**Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands
State Board of Education**

Public School System

P. O. Box 501370, Saipan, MP 96950



**Invitation For Bid
IFB # 09-004**

The Public School System is soliciting competitive scaled bids for the purchase, delivery, installation, and assembly of **Computer Softwares and Printer Equipments, Supplies & Accessories for Saipan Southern High School (SSHS)**. Detailed information on the Scope of Work is available at the PSS Procurement & Supply Office located on the 3rd floor of the NMI Retirement Fund Building, Capitol Hill, Saipan, MP 96950.

All bids shall be in a sealed envelope face marked "IFB 09-004" containing one (1) original and three (3) copies and submitted to the PSS Procurement and Supply Office, no later than **December 22, 2008 at 10:00 a.m.** Responsibility Determination documents shall be placed in a separate envelope marked "IFB 09-004 CONFIDENTIAL - Responsibility Determination" (one (1)-original and three (3)-copies). Any bid after the aforementioned date and time will not be accepted under any circumstance.

Technical questions shall be in writing and addressed to Mr. Juan D. Babauta, Acting Procurement & Supply Officer, via fax # (670) 664-3791. Alternatively, questions may be e-mailed to the following address: babautajd@pss.cnmi.mp.

The Public School System reserves the right to award single or multiple awards or to reject any or all bids, in whole or in part, if to do so is in the best interest of the Public School System.

All bids shall become the property of the CNMI Public School System.

/s/ Rita A. Sablan, Ed.D.
Commissioner of Education

/s/ Juan D. Babauta
Acting, Procurement & Supply Officer



Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands
State Rehabilitation Council
FY 09 1st General Membership Meeting
PO Box 501521 Saipan, MP 96950, TEL.: (670) 322-6537 FAX: (670) 322-6536
TTY (670) 322-6449 EMAIL: voc.rehab@saipan.com



PUBLIC NOTICE

Pursuant to I CMC 99910, the public is advised that the State Rehabilitation Council will hold its FY 09 1st General Membership Meeting on Thursday, December 18, 2008 at the Azucena Room, Fiesta Resort Hotel at 10:00am-2:00pm. Interested individuals are welcome to attend.

AGENDA

- I. Preliminaries
 - A. Roll Call
 - B. Review & Adoption of Agenda
 - C. Review & Adoption of 6/25/2008 Minutes
- II. Reports
 - A. OVR Director
 - B. SRC Chairman
- III. Old Business
 - A. Vacancy Appointments Status
- IV. New Business
 - A. Election of Officers
 - B. Committee Chair Appointments
 - C. Approval of 2009 SRC Resource Plan
- V. Consumer Forum
- VI. Announcements/Miscellaneous
- VII. Adjournment

In compliance with the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA), individuals who wish to attend the meeting but require accommodations such as large print or sign language interpreters, are asked to call 3226537(voice) or 322-6449(ITY). Please contact Magin Iginoef(Council Liaison) two days in advanced for necessary arrangements.

/s/ Jesus Elameto
SRC Vice-Chairperson
Publication of this notice is paid for by federal funds made possible by the United States Department of Special Education and Rehabilitative Services (OSERS).



**Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands
State Board of Education**

Public School System

P. O. Box 501370, Saipan, MP 96950



**REQUEST FOR PROPOSAL
RFP 09-005**

The CNMI Public School System is soliciting competitive sealed proposals for the **Supply of Diesel, Unleaded Gasoline, Lubricating Oil, and Fluids for its School Bus and Vehicle Fleets**.

Detailed information on the scope of work is available at the PSS Procurement & Supply Office located on the 3rd floor of the NMI Retirement Fund Building, Capitol Hill, Saipan, MP 96950.

All proposals shall be in a sealed envelope face marked "RFP 09-005" containing one (1) original and three (3) copies and shall be submitted to the PSS Procurement and Supply Office no later than January 07, 2009 at 2:00 p.m. Responsibility determination documents shall be placed in a separate envelope marked "RFP 09-005, CONFIDENTIAL - Responsibility Determination", containing one (1) original and three (3) copies. Any proposal after the aforementioned date and time will not be accepted under any circumstance.

Technical questions shall be in writing and addressed to Mr. Juan D. Babauta, Acting Procurement & Supply Officer, via fax # (670) 664-3791. Alternatively, questions may be e-mailed to the following address: babautajd@pss.cnmi.mp.

Contractors are required to submit with their proposal, a copy of their valid business license.

The Public School System reserves the right to award single or multiple awards or to reject any or all proposals, in whole or in part, if to do so is in the best interest of the Public School System.

All proposals shall become the property of the Public School System.

/S/ Rita A. Sablan, Ed.D.
Commissioner of Education

/S/ Juan D. Babauta
Acting, P&S Officer

Gasol leads Lakers to 115-110 win over Suns



LOS ANGELES (AP)—Pau Gasol scored 28 points, Kobe Bryant had seven of his 18 points in the last 6 1/2 minutes, and the Los Angeles Lakers struggled to a 115-110 victory over the short-handed Phoenix Suns on Wednesday night.

Andrew Bynum added 17 points and 11 rebounds, Sasha Vujacic scored a season-high 15 points and Derek Fisher had 13 for the Lakers (18-3), who were coming off a lethargic 113-101 loss at Sacramento on Tuesday night and didn't clinch this victory until the final minute.

The Suns (13-10) played without Raja Bell, Boris Diaw and rookie Sean Singletary, traded to Charlotte earlier Wednesday for Jason Richardson, Jared Dudley and a 2010 second-round pick.

Phoenix also was without former Lakers star Shaquille O'Neal, whose 92-year-old great-grandmother died this week. O'Neal was in New Jersey for funeral services and hopes to return in time to play Friday night against Orlando. O'Neal scored 35 points Tuesday night—his most in nearly three years—in a 125-110 victory over Milwaukee.

Matt Barnes had season-high totals of 25 points and 10 rebounds to lead Phoenix. Grant Hill scored 23 points, Amare Stoudemire had 21 points and 11 rebounds, and Leandro Barbosa added 18 points for the Suns. Steve Nash shot 2-of-12 and was held to seven points and nine assists.

Barbosa scored five straight points early in the fourth quarter to give the Suns an 86-85 lead. But a basket by Gasol and two more by Lamar Odom put the Lakers ahead 91-86, and they led the rest of the way.

It was 91-90 when Bryant made a 3-pointer and Odom

added two free throws to give the Lakers some breathing room. The Suns weren't closer than four points after that.

Barnes scored 10 points during an 19-6 run that gave the Suns a 76-74 lead, their first of the game. Nash's 3-pointer—his first field goal in nine attempts—put Phoenix on top. The Lakers led 82-81 entering the final period.

With Gasol and four reserves on the floor, the Lakers scored 10 straight points early in the second quarter for a 39-27 lead—largest of the game for either team. But the Suns hung tough, getting as close as three points before Los Angeles settled for a 53-48 halftime lead. Bryant was hardly noticeable in the opening 24 minutes, shooting 2-of-7 for four points.

Bynum, who had only eight points and four rebounds in a disappointing 113-101 loss Tuesday night at Sacramento, had nine points and three rebounds in the first quarter against the Suns, helping the Lakers take a 29-25 lead despite Phoenix's 57.9 percent shooting effort.

Cavaliers 101, 76ers 93

In Philadelphia, LeBron James scored 29 points and Mo Williams added a season-high 27 as Cleveland cruised to their 10th consecutive victory, beating Philadelphia.

Anderson Varejao added 15 points, and Ben Wallace had 10 rebounds for the Central Division-leading Cavaliers, who improved to 19-3 and 7-3 on the road. They are one win shy of tying the fran-

chise record of 11 straight wins set during the 1988-89 season.

Andre Iguodala scored a season-high 27 points for the 76ers.

Spurs 95, Hawks 89

At San Antonio, Manu Ginobili scored 27 points in a return to his sixth-man role to help San Antonio extend its winning streak to four games.

Tim Duncan, playing in his 1,000th NBA game in the regular season and playoffs, added 19 points and 11 rebounds. Joe Johnson led Atlanta with 29 points.

Knicks 121, Nets 109

At East Rutherford, New Jersey, Al Harrington scored a season-high 39 points, fellow New Jer-

sey high school star Tim Thomas also had his best game of the season as New York rallied to beat the Nets.

Harrington was a point short of his career high, while Thomas scored a season-high 26. Acquired in separate deals on the same day last month, Harrington and Thomas were too athletic for the Nets' forwards, helping New York storm back from a poor start.

Wilson Chandler added 24 points for the Knicks, who rebounded from a 105-100 loss in Chicago on Tuesday and won for just the second time in six games.

Devin Harris scored 32 points for the Nets.

Hornets 105, Bobcats 89

At New Orleans, Chris Paul had 15 points and 15 assists, and David West and Peja Stojakovic each scored 17 points in New Orleans' seventh win in eight games.

Rookie D.J. Augustin scored a career-high 28 points to lead Charlotte. The Bobcats took the floor with a depleted lineup shortly after a multiplayer trade that sent leading scorer Jason Richardson to Phoenix.

Nuggets 116, Timberwolves 105

In Denver, Carmelo Anthony matched the NBA record for points in a quarter with 33 in the third and finished with a season-high 45 for the game as Denver downed Minnesota.

Anthony tied the NBA mark of 33 points set by San Antonio's George Gervin in the second

quarter against New Orleans on April 9, 1978. Anthony broke the franchise record of 32 set by David Thompson against Detroit, also on April 9, 1978.

Minnesota has lost seven straight games, the past two since Kevin McHale took over as head coach.

Raptors 101, Pacers 88

At Toronto, Jason Kapono scored a season-high 25 points, Chris Bosh added 21 points and 10 rebounds and Toronto beat Indiana to snap a five-game losing streak and give interim coach Jay Triano his first win since he took over for the fired Sam Mitchell.

Jamario Moon also had a season high with 17 points for Toronto. Danny Granger led Indiana with 22 points, and Troy Murphy had 20 points and 20 rebounds. The Pacers have lost four straight and nine of 11.

Warriors 119, Bucks 96

In Oakland, California, Stephen Jackson scored 21 points as Golden State beat Milwaukee a notched consecutive wins to steady after a nine-game losing streak.

Grizzlies 108, Thunder 102

At Oklahoma City, Rudy Gay had 22 points, and backup point guard Mike Conley scored 14 of his 16 points in fourth quarter to help Memphis beat Oklahoma City and win a consecutive game for the first time this season.

O.J. Mayo added 18 points to pass Magic Johnson for the third longest streak of double-figure games to start a career at 22. Only Dan Issel (27) and Bobby Jones (24) had longer streaks. Kevin Durant had 28 points for Oklahoma City, an NBA-worst 2-22.



Los Angeles Lakers forward Pau Gasol (16), of Spain, puts up a shot as Phoenix Suns center Amare Stoudemire (1) defends during the second half of an NBA basketball game, Wednesday, Dec. 10, 2008 in Los Angeles.

Suns trade Bell, Diaw for guard Richardson

PHOENIX (AP)—The Phoenix Suns jettisoned two familiar players to Charlotte, and got the Bobcats' leading scorer in exchange.

In the latest move in their ongoing makeover, the Suns traded Raja Bell and Boris Diaw to the Bobcats on Wednesday as part of a deal for Jason Richardson.

"We felt like we needed to shake things up a little bit," Suns general manager Steve Kerr said. "We wanted to add a great scorer in the backcourt to give us better balance to take some of the pressure off of Steve (Nash)."

Rookie point guard Sean Singletary also went to Charlotte, while the Suns got small forward Jared Dudley and a 2010 second-round draft pick.

The dynamic Richardson was

the center of the deal, though.

"I think it was an opportunity for us to get better," Phoenix coach Terry Porter said, "a guy who can get 20 points a night, adds athleticism for us."

The 6-foot-6 Richardson is a two-time NBA slam dunk champion and an accomplished 3-point shooter who is averaging 18.7 points this season and 18.8 for his pro career.

"When you try to get better, you're going to lose some assets," Charlotte coach Larry Brown said. "We're losing a pretty darn good player and the way Phoenix is trying to make their team, they just added an unbelievable piece."

Bell, a first-team all-defensive team selection in 2006-07 and second team last season, had made it clear he was not happy with the Suns' switch

from coach Mike D'Antoni's high-flying style to Porter's more deliberate approach. Bell is averaging 9.4 points this season.

The versatile Diaw had seen his playing time dwindle behind Amare Stoudemire. The Suns still liked the Frenchman's skills but not his salary. He is getting \$9 million this season and has three more years on his contract.

"I think it's going to be a little bit of a shock to those guys when you start a season and you have a legitimate chance to win a championship and all of a sudden go with a team that's trying to go and find an identity and get better," Brown said.

Dudley, a 6-foot-7 second-year pro, started seven games for Charlotte this season.

The 32-year-old Bell came to the Suns as a free agent in 2005 and thrived under D'Antoni's up-tempo system, gaining notoriety when he was suspended for a 2006 playoff game against the Los Angeles Lakers after throwing Kobe Bryant to the floor.

But Bell didn't like the coaching change or the new system. Nash was a tough sell, too, and his adjustment has been made more difficult, the Suns believe, by the lack of a major scoring threat at the other backcourt position.

"Raja was a great teammate," Stoudemire said. "Whenever there are changes, you've got to accept that. We're going to build this chemistry again and get it rolling. I don't think it will take too long."

Kerr and Porter didn't think the team lost anything defensively in substituting Richardson for Bell.

"Raja's capable of stopping guys," Porter said. "Jason's capable of stopping guys, also."

The deal marks a continuation of Kerr's change in Phoenix's makeup. The big move came in a trade that brought Shaquille O'Neal from Miami late last season.

"He averaged 20 a game for us this year without a true post game," Brown said about Richardson. "When you put him with Shaq, who can pass the ball and commands double teams, and Stoudemire as well, and you got a guy like Steve Nash, they got a pretty formidable weapon."

Trading Richardson is the first major move for the Bobcats since Larry Brown took over as coach—and comes less than two years after managing partner Michael Jordan acquired Richardson in a draft-night deal with Golden State.

"I've watched Jason for a

long time," said Bobcats general manager Rod Higgins, who also was with Richardson in Golden State. "Just watching him grow, he grew from where he started to where he is today with his ability to score the basketball."

Diaw will help with Charlotte with Brown's biggest complaint, a thin frontcourt. Diaw could start right away for struggling Sean May at power forward.

"We needed to become bigger," Higgins said.

Bell provides Charlotte with another wing player, while Singletary could serve as the No. 3 point guard behind Raymond Felton and rookie D.J. Augustin. Brown has requested another consistent point guard.

But Richardson's offense will be missed from a team that entered Wednesday last in the league in scoring.

Source: Yankees, Sabathia reach \$160M deal



LAS VEGAS

(AP) — C C

Sabathia and the New York Yankees agreed Wednesday on the framework for a \$161 million, seven-year contract, the richest for a pitcher in baseball history. The Yankees and Sabathia's agents still need to work out all the details, a baseball official familiar with the talks told The Associated Press on Wednesday. The person spoke on condition of anonymity because the deal has not been completed and the pitcher must pass a physical.

Sabathia has the right to opt out after three seasons and become a free agent again.

"I'm sure every team in baseball would love to have him. He's a guy who's an intimidating factor on the mound," Yankees captain Derek Jeter said at the winter meetings.

Yankees general manager Brian Cashman left Las Vegas on Tuesday for a quick trip to the pitcher's home in the San Francisco area, sparking the final stages of negotiations.

"There's a lot of layers in the process. Until that process is completed I'm kind of prevented from saying too much," Cashman said. "Legally I've got to protect myself. And, you know, you're never done until you're done, and so, we're not done."

Cashman made a six-year offer to the former AL Cy Young Award winner on Nov. 14, the first possible day to negotiate with free agents, and met with Sabathia in Las Vegas on Sunday and Monday. He had told the pitcher's agents that it would be helpful, he was willing to travel to meet with the Sabathia and his family in California.

At 3 p.m. Tuesday, Cashman received the invitation.

"I said, 'Let's go,'" he recalled. "When the opportunity was given, that's a flight I had to take."

He bought a one-way ticket for a 5 p.m. flight to Oakland and took a car service to Sabathia's home in Vallejo, where he met with the pitcher, Sabathia's wife and children and Brian Peters, one of the star's agents.

Cashman joked about flying commercial.

"We're not the Red Sox," he said, a reference to the team's use of owner John Henry private plane during negotiations with Daisuke Matsuzaka two offseasons ago.

"They certainly are not, thank goodness!" Red Sox president Larry Lucchino responded in an e-mail to the AP.

Cashman couldn't recall ever before making a recruiting trip to a free agent's home. He had remembered seeing it on an episode of "MTV Cribs."

"When I walked in, I did tell him, it was like: I've been here before," Cashman said.

After putting the framework for an agreement in place, Cashman spent the night at a San Francisco hotel before taking an 8 a.m. flight back to Las Vegas on Wednesday. Yankees officials, meanwhile, participated in negotiations by phone.

Sabathia will give the Yankees a new marquee star as they head into the new \$1.3 billion Yankee Stadium, where seats sell for up to \$2,500 each. His deal will top the previous mark for a pitcher, a \$137.5 million, six-year contract agreed to by Johan Santana and the New York Mets last winter. His \$23 million average salary is just ahead of Santana's \$22.9 million.

Among all players, it will trail only Alex Rodriguez's \$275 million, 10-year contract with the Yankees, A-Rod's earlier \$252 million, 10-year agreement with Texas and Derek Jeter's \$189 million, 10-year contract with the Yankees.

"He's left-handed. He's a tremendous competitor. His talent is obvious," Cashman said. "And he matches that with his character at the same time."

Signing Sabathia was the No. 1 offseason priority for the Yankees, whose streak of 13 consecutive playoff appearances ended this year. He would join a rota-

tion that includes Chien-Ming Wang and Joba Chamberlain.

New York hopes to re-sign Andy Pettitte, who also is a free agent, and has had talks this week with Ben Sheets and the agents for A.J. Burnett.

Many of Sabathia's questions to the Yankees had been about what it would be like to pitch in New York, and part of the reason Cashman traveled to California was to meet with the Sabathia's wife, Amber, along with the player to discuss that issue.

"The only times people tend to struggle is when they put pressure on themselves," Jeter said. "It's still the same game whether you're playing in New York, or you're playing in Cleveland, Milwaukee, Tampa."

Milwaukee acquired Sabathia from Cleveland in July, and he went 11-2 for the Brewers. Sabathia was a workhorse, throwing seven complete games and three shutouts in 17 starts as the Brewers made the playoffs for the first time since 1982.

GM Doug Melvin, who had offered a five-year deal worth about \$100 million, said he was notified at 7:30 a.m. Wednesday that the Brewers were no longer in the running.

"We put our best foot forward," Melvin said. "We made a substantial offer. We looked

at some numbers and we gave some serious consideration to offering a sixth year. We didn't do it, but we had given it consideration. We were still mulling

the numbers on the sixth year, we asked our financial people to look at it. But it appears it would not have made a difference, anyway."

QB Matt Cassel leaves Patriots after father dies



SAN JOSE, Calif.

(AP)—New Eng-

land Patriots quarterback Matt Cassel left the team

Wednesday to join his family following the death of his father earlier in the week.

"Our thoughts are with him and his family during this time," Coach Bill Belichick said before practice. "Right now we're just taking it day to day. He's going to take care of what he has to do."

Belichick said that Greg Cassel died Monday night and Matt has left the team to be with his family in Southern California. Belichick said he didn't know when Cassel would rejoin the team or whether he would be able to start Sunday against the Oakland Raiders.

The Patriots are practicing this week in San Jose. They stayed on the West Coast after last Sunday's 24-21 win in Seattle.

Cassel's teammates expressed their condolences for his loss and offered whatever support they could.

"It's a part of life," defensive lineman Richard Seymour said. "It's one thing that will happen to all of us someday. It's a tough situation. I don't think you're ever prepared for it. We support him and his family."

Matt Cassel is from Northridge in the Los Angeles area and his father and mother Barbara divorced when he was 14. Greg Cassel was a script writer.

Belichick had to go through the difficulty of the death of his father, Steve, during the 2005 season.

"It's bigger than football," Belichick said. "I've been through that during the season as well, a personal situation you just have to deal with, and as I said, our thoughts and prayers are with him."

December to Remember

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RGA donates \$3,500 to GTC

By **ROSELYN B. MONROYO**
roselyn_monroyo@saipantribune.com
REPORTER



The Refaluwasch Golf Association last Sunday handed over a check worth \$3,500 to Gregorio T. Camacho Elementary School as part of the club's commitment to extend financial help to the community.

The donation was raised during last month's RGA Memorial Cup, which drew more than 60 company and indi-

vidual supporters.

Receiving the donation Sunday at the Kili Café of Hyatt Regency Saipan were GTC acting principal Charlotte Camacho and GTC-PTA treasurer Marlene C. Cruz.

"We are very grateful to RGA and its members and supporters for their generous donation. This will go a long way as far as ensuring that the needs of the students are met the soonest and best possible way," Camacho said.

Cruz said the donation may be used to purchase instructional materials, fix

chairs or air-conditioned units, and to fund projects that will benefit students.

RGA tournament director Jess Wabol, on behalf of the club president Adam Hardwicke and vice president Ed Tenorio, thanked all private companies, individuals, and government officials for supporting the Memorial Cup and all RGA sanctioned events this year.

"Without them, it will be hard to hold tournaments as frequent as we did this year due to the present economic situation here," Wabol said.

Co-ed soccer league to open shop next month

By **ROSELYN B. MONROYO**
roselyn_monroyo@saipantribune.com
REPORTER



The Northern Mariana Islands Football Association will be kicking off the 2009 season with the NMIFA Co-ed Soccer Spring League at the CPA Field.

"The co-ed soccer league is starting in January as a non-competitive recreational league to provide the opportunity for adults who are new to soccer, people who are out of shape, or people who are getting creaky, to have an opportunity to learn and to play the world's most popular sport. The main purpose is to have fun and to learn the game," said David Khorram, who is organizing the league along with Jaime Saiki and Angelo Villagomez.

Khorram added they are looking

to start the event on Jan. 5 with one game to be played in each playing day. Games will be played every Monday, Tuesday, and Wednesday and will start at 5:15pm. But Khorram said schedules are tentative.

An "Intro to Soccer" camp will be held on Jan. 3 to teach participants drills on dribbling, passing, shooting, and other basic skills.

Khorram is inviting interested individuals, especially those with no prior soccer experience to join the camp and the league.

"I've had a great time with the past two summer co-ed leagues. There are lots of opportunities for the island's talented players to be involved with soccer year-round. For those of us with less skill, the co-ed league is the place to be. We're looking at having it run for many more weeks of the year, and

drawing only a limited number of the talented players," Khorram said.

Players joining next month's league will be classified into three categories. A players are those with the ability to play in the men's or women's league, or have significant experience playing soccer. B players have some soccer experience and with moderate stamina, while C types are those new to soccer, or completely out of shape.

"The league will limit the number of 'A' players per team, and the role of these proficient players will be to teach and to support the development of the less skilled players," Khorram said.

Each team will be composed of 11 players.

If interested to play or for more information, contact Villagomez at 285 6462 or email angelovillagomez@gmail.com.

19 students take part in ping-pong clinic



Nineteen Grace Christian Academy students took part in a ping-pong clinic conducted by members of the CNMI National Table Tennis Team last Tuesday at the school's Navy Hill campus.

Members of the gold medal-winning team in the 2006 Saipan Micronesian Games—Budhi Gurung, Luke Lu, Liang Wei Bin, and Su Yong Dong—taught the students some rudimentary table tennis skills utilizing three of GCA's ping-pong tables.

The four ping-pong players were joined by 2008 Micro Games women's gold medalist Jean Shi, Marianas Amateur Table Tennis Association president Steve Lim, former Shaanxi Provincial Table Tennis Team coach Mark Ma, and Tinian Dynasty Hotel and Casino ping-pong club official Alfred Yue.

According to Gurung, MATTA members and their counterparts from TDHC gave the students tips on how to properly hold the ping-pong paddle, how to hit the ball, as well as the proper table tennis stance.

Yue, for his part, said he just loves

the sport of table tennis and wants the islands' youth to learn it.

"Ping-pong is an international sport good for all ages and gender. Last month, there was a table tennis team visiting us from Japan, the youngest member was 64, more women than men, and they all played as well as us," he said.

Gurung added that he hopes the GCA clinic will be the start of MATTA's commitment to hold more such events in the future to develop younger ping-pong players in the Commonwealth. **(Mark Rabago)**



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Marianas Amateur Table Tennis Association and Tinian Dynasty Hotel and Casino ping-pong club members pose with students from Grace Christian Academy following a clinic Tuesday at the Navy Hill campus' cafeteria.

All set for 2008 SGA Ace of Aces



Organizers of the Saipan Golfers Association Ace of Aces Tournament have given a go ahead signal for the two-round event this weekend.

The first round of SGA's yearend event will take place this Saturday at the Kingfisher Golf Links in Talofofo, while Coral Ocean Point will host the second and final round this Sunday.

Tee time for Saturday's first round

is 8:22am, while the second round will start at 9:30am. Participants are asked to be at the venue one hour before the tee times.

Qualifying for the weekend tournament are the 12 monthly winners of this year. The list includes Mariano Fajardo, Joe Sablan, Ned Norita, Larry Deleon Guerrero, Carl Hocog, Edward Manibusan, Nobert Sablan, Ron Hodges, Art Deleon Guerrero, Steve Balakrishna, Joe Demapan, and Jess Castro.

Monthly winners and the Ace of Aces champion will receive their trophies during the awards banquet/SGA Christmas Party on Dec. 19 at Charley's Cabaret at the Pacific Islands Club.

The party will run from 6pm to 11pm.

For more information, contact SGA president Martin Sablan at 483-6278, vice president John Takai at 484-3045, secretary Larry Guerrero at 287-1052, or tournament coordinator Mariano Fajardo at 483-2549. **(Roselyn B. Monroyo)**



ROSELYN B. MONROYO

Refaluwasch Golf Association members and representatives of Gregorio T. Camacho Elementary School pose for a group photo Sunday at Kili Café of Hyatt Regency Saipan during the club's presentation of donation to GTC.

"We are hoping that they will continue to support us next year and help us reach out to the community through the Memorial Cup," he added.

Wabol said next year, they will hold a draw again to determine the beneficiary of the Memorial Cup. Past beneficiaries were the *man'amko*, Garapan Elementary School, and individuals wishing to have something for Christmas.

Last month's Memorial Cup was supported by Asiana Airlines, First Hawaiian Bank, Gold's Gym, Aquarius Beach Tower, Curves, Hertz Rent A Car, I-Connect, Saipan Grand Hotel, Marpac, 360 Restaurant, Pti, Western Union, Docomo, Dial Rent To Own, Yuna Golf Range, Saipan Stevedore, All Star Sporting Goods, First Flores, DFS, Triple J Motors, Café at the Park, LaoLao Bay Golf Resort, Kingfisher Golf Links, Coco Restaurant, YCO,

Pacific Islands Club, Marianas Country Club, Marianas Resort & Spa, National Office Supply, McDonald's, Coca-Cola, Pacific Trading, Hyatt Regency Saipan, Nippon General Trading, Co., Fiesta Resort & Spa Saipan, Coral Ocean Point, Aqua Resort Club, Flor Hair Salon, Kautz Class Co., Speaker Arnold Palacios, Reps. Heinz Hofschneider, Ray Tebuteb, Ed Salas, Ralph Torres, Rosemond Sanros, Joseph Norita and Ray Palacios, Sen. Luis Crisostimo, Tropex Graden, Sablan Topline Cleaning Agency, Ben Jones & Family, Advance Terminators, Delta Management Corp., Radio Com, PLs Water Co., Marianas Health Services, Juan L. Babauta, Torres Brothers Law Firm, Kan Pacific Saipan Ltd., Michael White, New Fresh Marker, Palms Resort, LSG, Saipan Shipping Co., and PJ, Tilde, and Matthew Igitol.

Castillo wins TDHC darts tourney

Don Castillo won the 1st TDHC Dart Tournament after besting a 32-player multinational field held last week at the Tinian Dynasty Hotel and Casino's staff housing recreation area.

Castillo joined Rolly Rosales, Roanne Awa, and Richard Nuera in the Final Four of the game that is called Killers and Cricket locally.

The tournament started out with the aforementioned 32 players, halved to 16 after the first round, and then to eight after the second. Castillo then took on Awa in the first semis best-of-three pairing and prevailed, setting the championship match against Rosales, who beat Richard Nuera in their own semis match-up.

In the finals, Castillo hit his marks consistently, winning two games

against Rosales' zero victories to hoist the championship trophy.

The awards ceremony for the 1st TDHC Dart Tournament was held immediately after the tournament.

Club TDHC president Noel Sabordo was present during the ceremony along with tournament director Gener Bernal, who was assisted by Ernie Advincula. Other club members also attended the closing ceremony.

Sabordo thanked TDHC management, especially its general manager Tom Liu for making the 1st TDHC Dart Tournament a success. He also extended his appreciation to the support given by Antonio "Uncle" Kuan and Jimmy Casaruan. **(Mark Rabago)**



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Don Castillo, fourth from left, celebrates with other participants after winning the 1st TDHC Dart Tournament last week. On hand to congratulate Castillo is Tinian Dynasty Hotel and Casino general manager Tom Liu, second left.

RGA donates \$3,500 to GTC



The Refaluwasch Golf Association last Sunday handed over a check worth \$3,500 to Gregorio T. Camacho Elementary School as part of the club's commitment to extend financial help to the community.

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Saipan Tribune Sports

Gasol leads Lakers to 115-110 win over Suns

Pau Gasol scored 28 points, Kobe Bryant had seven of his 18 points in the last 6 1/2 minutes, and the Los Angeles Lakers struggled to a 115-110 victory over the short-handed Phoenix Suns on Wednesday night.

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36 FRIDAY, DECEMBER 12, 2008

SAIPAN TRIBUNE

Lady Ayuyus take JV crown



ROSELYN B. MONROYO

The Lady Ayuyus celebrate their title win in the junior varsity division of the MISO caging Wednesday night after beating Southern High School's Lady Rays at the Mariana High School Gymnasium. Joining them is coach Francis San Nicolas, standing far left.

By ROSELYN B. MONROYO
roselyn_monroyo@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

Kagman High School capped its domination of Southern High School in the girls junior var-

sity division of the 2008-2009 Marianas Interscholastic Sports Organization Basketball League with a 65-36 win in their title game Wednesday night at the Marianas High School Gymnasium.



The Lady Ayuyus swept the Rays in the three round-robin regular season, as the two teams were forced to meet three times this year after MHS failed to get enough players for its team a few days be-

fore the start of the league.

In their fourth and final duel, all the Rays could do was move within five points at the start of the third quarter. But midway in that canto, the Ayuyus started pulling away

See LADY on Page 34

OFF THE BENCH

By BOB COLDEEN
Special to the Saipan Tribune



Coldeen is a longtime journalist in the CNMI and is currently the news director of KSPN2.

Heisman hopefuls

Sunday we will find out who won the 2008 Heisman Trophy for college's top player.

Last year I clamored with passion and logic the case for Tebow. This year I don't care. Neither does Tebow cuz he said so.

There is absolutely no need for me to note that Colt McCoy and Sam Bradford compiled their gaudy stats against sorry defenses, none of them ranked better than 50th nationally. Tebow played against eight defenses in the Top 40 and still managed 28 TD passes with only two interceptions, plus 12 TD runs, certainly Heisman-worthy numbers in a normal year but hey, who said this has been a normal year?

Just to show you how strange it's been, here's something taken off an Alabama message board by one of THEIR fans after the SEC championship that elevates Tebow beyond mere stats of the two candidates:

"I saw the third quarter. I saw Tebow get sacked. I saw Florida go three and out. I saw the Tide go 91 yards in workman like fashion. I saw a helpless UF defense. I saw Bama tie the game. I saw UF respond by missing their only FG of the season. I saw Bama march again. I saw a UF team that was beat. I saw a defense with hands on hips gasping for breath getting absolutely trucked. I saw an Alabama team rolling downhill through Gator players. I saw the UF players give all that they had left to keep Bama out of the end zone. I saw the Tide take the lead heading into the 4th quarter.

No way could the UF defense recover from the extended pounding they had just endured. With two DTs out, there was simply no reserve left to call upon to stem the Tide. All that had been claimed pregame by the Crimson and White faithful about how their lines would wear UF down and control the game had come true.

And then things changed. I saw Tebow rally his offensive teammates and take them down the field. Run after run after run, they had Bama on their heels at their own 27. A throw, a run and a throw and Tim has UF on the doorstep. Two more runs and Demps is leaping in the endzone.

But this was not enough. Tebow leads this team, the university, not just its offense. He comes down the sideline toward the end zone where the Gator fans are thickest and exhorts them to cheer, to roar, to believe. He turns and runs to the special team players huddled for the upcoming kick. He slams into their huddle like a bowling ball knocking aside so many pins. He urged them to make the stop, to finish the play. And they did. He turns to the bench and gets in the face of his defensive teammates and makes his will theirs. He inspires them, he challenges them, he leads them. They face the same Bama players who had owned them in the third quarter, who had worn them down and controlled them. They faced those same Bama players and they stuffed them. With the game on the line they had stuffed Bama for a 3 and out.

Then Tim Tebow went out to win himself and the University of Florida a championship. Two runs and it was 3rd and short. Tebow keeps it, meets Mount Cody in the hole and carries all 360 pounds of him for the first down. Tebow throws for 33, Tebow throws for 15, Tebow runs for 5. Bama is done. Tebow throws the last five yards to Riley Cooper on a pass that had no room for imprecision resulting in the TD that made dreams into reality. I have never seen a single player so impose his will on both his teammates, his opponents and the crowd as Tim Tebow did in that fourth quarter. I am in awe.

He's not Superman. He's not unbeatable. But he will never give less than everything he has and he will never shy away from a challenge. He is the best team leader I have ever seen in college sports. He willed a victory for UF, not on his own, but by giving his teammates the strength to believe and an example to follow. And that they did."

That's from a Bama fan. 'Nuff said.

Fitial to Quinata: Let's get it on

By ROSELYN B. MONROYO
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REPORTER

TRENCH TECH

The main event in Trench Warz IX: The Annihilation between Marianas Elite's Kelvin "The Big Hit" Fitial and Rueben "The Booben" Quinata of Guam's Spike 22

Fight Academy promises to be a brawl as both fighters vowed to prove something.

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Rueben "The Booben" Quinata, left, and Kelvin "The Big Hit" Fitial size each other up during the weigh-in for Trench Warz IX: Annihilation yesterday at the Royal Taga Hall of the Saipan World Resort.

ROSELYN B. MONROYO



Bucher and Noble to defend titles in 2009

By MARK RABAGO
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ASSISTANT EDITOR



Australia's Andrew Noble and Switzerland's Renata Bucher will be back to defend their XTERRA Saipan Championship and Tagaman Triathlon

titles next year during the 2009 Saipan Sportsfest.

Taga Inc. president Wolf Mojica confirmed the participation of the two and added that other world-class athletes will challenge them in the multi-sport races.

"We have confirmed that Renata Bucher and Andrew Noble will defend their titles. We have

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SAIPAN TRIBUNE

Australia's Andrew Noble, left, and Renata Bucher of Switzerland cross the finish line in separate times after conquering the 19th Tagaman Triathlon last year at the American Memorial Park.